

AUSTRALIAN

Gillette competition — Page 24

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WARREN SPINK'S
comeback trail P2



MARCONI v SLICKERS
feature story P11



NSW & VIC LEAGUES
Latest — P10 & 15

NSL's tri-state challenge

BY KEITH GILMOUR

THE first season of NSL summer soccer is pointing towards a magnificent climax, with six clubs jockeying for the most advantageous

of the Top Five positions.

There is a distinct possibility that the grand finals series could be spread over the states.

Melbourne Croatia has edged out Marconi at the top with South Melbourne and Ade-

laide City well placed, and Sydney Olympic and Apia Leichhardt locked apparently in a do-or-die battle for the final spot.

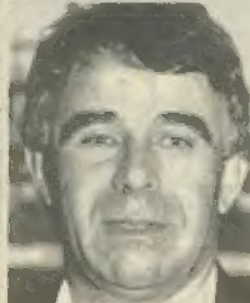
A great deal will

**CONTINUED ON
PAGE 10**

Raznjevic exudes confidence

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

IVAN Raznjevic, Melbourne Croatia's polished coach, after seeing his side down a gallant Melita Eagles 2-1 last Saturday night at the Melita Stadium with a display of fast and physical football, threw down the gauntlet to Marconi's Berti Mariani for the NSL title.



IVAN RAZNJEVIC

Raznjevic confidently stated:

"My team is chasing

the NSL title and we are now seriously pressuring Marconi for it. We showed great spirit in beating Melita and could have scored another couple of goals.

"Now we are more serious than ever for the championship.

"We can play it fast, we can play it physical.

"We have the players, the skill, the style and the spirit to do it.

"And we still have Joe Caleta, our fastest player yet not fully fit, to come into the side."

Former Soccerroo defender, Alan Davidson, endorsed his boss's threats.

"We showed great character to defeat Melita, with heaps of pace and fighting qualities. We can take the title.

"Melbourne Croatia tonight showed we are a team to be respected. "We have the character to beat anyone now."



ALAN DAVIDSON

Marconi, defending their title for the third consecutive season, could fall especially now that their enforcing star midfielder, Ian Gray is injured.

Without Gray's authority on the pitch the team has a different look.

BRODNIK HITS AD. HELLAS FOR SIX!



No wonder Wollongong City's Pat Bradnik sports an ear to ear smile! Pictured in the dressing room at Brandon Park after scoring six goals in the 7-0 rout of Adelaide Hellas, he had claimed Marconi's Zlatko Nastevski's five-goal record established against St George earlier in the season. As a Seventh Day Adventist, Brodник is unavailable to the Wolves for games played between sundown on Friday and Sunday. On this display coach David Ratcliffe must wish he is available more often. In six strokes he ensured the Wolves' retention of an NSL spot and went a long way towards sending Adelaide Hellas back to the South Australian State League. — Pic by courtesy of ILLAWARRA MERCURY.

SPOTLIGHT ON MELITA

— Pages 12/13

Arnold, Filan lead in players' award

BY GREG BLAKE

SAINTS goalkeeper John Filan's remarkable rise as a National League player could be capped off with his winning two player awards this season, the inaugural ASW-Bayswater Indoor Soccer Centre QNSL Player of the Year award and the Reusch prize for best goalkeeper in the league.

Further spectacular displays by Filan in St George's Round 19 and 20 games of the season have catapulted the rookie custodian into equal first place of the award alongside Sydney Croatia's Soccerroo champion Graham Arnold.

Filan and Arnold lead the field after votes were tallied and averaged at the end of Round 20 but the high-flying pair have plenty of opposition as we move into the business end of the 1989/90 summer season.

David Lowe, Tommy McCulloch, George Jolevski and Alan Davidson are hot on the leaders' tails with many other players still well in contention for the magnificent trophy and \$250 cheque compliments of the Bayswater Indoor



Graham Arnold.

Soccer Centre in Melbourne.

The top goalkeeper will be presented with a splendid Reusch wrist watch and a cheque for \$150.

Remember, to be in contention for either award, a player must

poll votes in at least 20 QNSL matches this season.

The leader board after Round 20:

6.80 — Arnold (Sydney Croatia), Filan (St George).

6.65 — McCulloch (Marconi).

6.64 — Davidson (Melbourne Croatia).

6.59 — Lowe (Marconi).

6.58 — Jolevski (Preston).

6.47 — Durakovic (South Melbourne).

6.45 — Bundalo (Apia), McPherson (Melita), Catlin (Marconi).

6.40 — Gosling (Sydney Olympic).

6.38 — Gray (Marconi).

6.37 — Pezzano (Apia).

6.32 — G Brown (Melita).

6.30 — Keogh (Sunshine), Tsolakis (South Melbourne).

6.29 — Phillips (Sydney Olympic), Moffitt (St George), Adzie (Melbourne Croatia).

6.27 — Clarkson (Sunshine), Petersen (South Melbourne).

6.26 — Tobin (AdCity).

6.25 — Wheatley (Marconi).

6.24 — Slager (Adelaide Hellas).

6.22 — Skeen (Wollongong).

6.21 — Crainie (Wollongong).

6.20 — Kidd (Adelaide Hellas).



JOHN FILAN

PRESTON Macedonia striker Warren Spink has returned to the Australian Institute of Sport where his first-class soccer career was launched five years ago.

His aim is to get specialised treatment which will hasten the healing of a cracked bone in his foot, and to resurrect his Quil National League and Soccerroo career.

The highly competitive 23-year-old has virtually had to sit out the 1989-90 NSL season, but while he may be a back number for the moment, he predicts big-time Australian soccer will soon be hearing from him again.

"There's just a chance of getting back into Preston's first team before the end of the season, but I won't be rushing it," Spink said.

"My main aim is to see if I can arrange to sign up with a Victorian State League side during the winter and rebuild to full fitness in time for the next National League season.

"It would make a lot of sense to do it that way, rather than sit out the winter and end up having a year out of the game."

He well remembers the eventful first day of the season against Melbourne Croatia when he sustained the injury.

"People keep asking who kicked me, but there was no-one else involved," he said.

"I went up for a header and came down on the side of my foot."

"I missed the next eight games, then had half a match against Apia and things seemed to be okay."

BY GRAHAM COOKE



WARREN SPINK

"Then, in the next match, we were playing St George and I pushed off on the foot and the bone went again."

Doctors then decided to graft some bone from his hip to cure what looked like being a persistent weakness.

"That seems to have worked, the plaster is off and I hope to be running on it next week."

He had come back to the AIS because "three weeks of treatment here is the equivalent of five or six weeks in Melbourne."

"I wanted to get back to fitness as soon as possible so I gave (head coach) Ron Smith a ring and he said it was fine for me to come."

English-born Spink came to Australia aged 12, playing his first senior games for Doveton in the Victorian State League before accepting an AIS scholarship.

He left Canberra at the end of 1984, playing an NSL season with Preston before trying his luck back in England with his home town club, Luton.

"I had a good season in the reserve team and the manager, David Pleat, seemed to want me, but when he left his successor had different ideas."

"I came home in the middle of the NSL season and signed up with Footscray, transferring back to Preston at the beginning of the last winter season in 1989."

"We had a great squad there — Robert Markovac, Andrew Zinni, and John Markovski — a lot better than the fifth place where we finished, but the side never reached its full potential."

With eight league and two cup goals behind him, he was ready to shine in the summer sun until the injury. Even so, he remains optimistic.

"In many ways I'm lucky the Soccerroos have not been playing many games so no-one else has had the chance of establishing himself."

Chris Bradley back in May

Chris Bradley, 17 year old prospect now enjoying an extended run with Bundesliga club Bayer Uerdingen, has mixed feelings about the West German approach to football training. He is an apprentice with the club's Youth 'A' team, but reports that there are very few games and little daytime training and the senior side is kept very much separate from the Youth teams. In order to see more action Bradley volunteered to play extra games with the 'B' team, much to the chagrin of the 'A' team coach. When the season is over in May, Bradley will return to action with NSW 1st Division side North Shore United and the three nights' training will be hardly less exacting than he has been used to in Europe. Despite the reservations about the intensity of the training, the youngster is still determined to continue to seek further European experience.

AUSTRALIAN

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Top crowd at Melbourne derby



BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

BUMPER crowds should be the order of the day as the Top Five hots up with two important clashes on Sunday.



Mike Petersen (left) and David Healy — sure to shine against Melbourne Croatia on Sunday.

In what should be a real crowd-pleaser, the two entertainers of the Quit National Soccer League, Melbourne Croatia and South Melbourne, clash at Somers Street with the top spot up for grabs.

The match could well decide the minor premiership, with both clubs equal leaders following fine victories last week.

Souths ran absolutely riot against defending champions Marconi in the big match last Sunday with Peter Tsolakis, Kim Tiliadoros and Paul Trimboli starring.

Melbourne Croatia moved up a gear and gathered both points in a bruising encounter against the difficult Melita Eagles in Sydney last Saturday.

Without Ian Gray and Zlatko Nastevski, Marconi look likely to relinquish their hold on the title and the pride of Melbourne will go on the line on Sunday to

Meanwhile, the other big match will be at St George Stadium when Sydney Olympic host Adelaide City.

Olympic finally climbed into the Top Five at the expense of Apia following their valuable win at Sunshine last Sunday while City scraped in past the improving Preston.

Away from Hindmarsh, Adelaide City have not won since early January and have enjoyed little success in Sydney recently.

Neither side can afford to drop the points at this stage of the season with the positions so tight at the top, however Olympic, who are starting to put their game together again, should have the edge at home.

Blacktown logically, but not mathematically, doomed for relegation host the erratic Sunshine on Sunday.

Georgie are by no means safe from relegation and with two straight defeats away from home, conceding eight goals, the visitors will be cautious at the Gabbie.

The Demons will prove difficult to toss at home for Sunshine who have never beaten Blacktown and on Sunday Tony Henderson's side could surprise and chalk up their fourth win of the season.

Preston, destined to finish out of the five following their loss to Adelaide City last week, play host to Apia who have monumental problems with injuries to key players, none less worrying than top scorer Rod Brown.

Without a victory in six weeks and a poor record away from home, Leichhardt will struggle against a Preston side beginning to get back to their best.

Preston hold a 100% record at home against Apia with six victories and although the Lambert Parkers will be desperate to win and keep their play-off chances alive, the home side should take the points on Sunday.

Wollongong, full of confidence following their record-breaking 7-0 win over Adelaide Hellas last week, take on the desperate St George at Brandon Park on Sunday.

'Big time'

While the Wolves secured their place in the 'big time' for next season with their magnificent result last week, the Saints are far from safe and coach Frank Arok must find an answer to his team's recent six games without a win.

Defender David Skeen is in fine form and along with striker Pat Brodnik could prove the thorn in Arok's side.

Brodnik with an amazing six goals last week broke the individual NSL scoring record and laid the foundations for Wollongong's biggest-ever victory.

St George picked up a valuable point against Apia but Wollongong are free of relegation worries and playing at home should take the points.

Adelaide Hellas must put their heavy defeat at Wollongong behind them and regroup for the match with the difficult Melita Eagles at Hindmarsh at Sunday.

Despite the new signings of Lee Sterry and Kurt Reynolds, Hellas suffered their biggest defeat in the NSL and coach Brian Garvey must find a way to spoil Melita's skilful build-up.

The crunch has come for Hellas who must take at least a point after slipping a further point from St George who are their nearest rivals in 12 place.

Led by the league's top scorer, Greg Brown, and the enigmatic Marshall Soper, the Eagles are without doubt a force to be reckoned with in the premier league and tested equal leaders Melbourne Croatia last week.

Marconi under pressure

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

MARCONI will have to be at full stretch to maintain their NSL title aspirations, when they face the rapidly improving Sydney Croatia in a local derby at Marconi Stadium on Sunday.

Sunday's match is certain to attract a huge crowd eager to see whether the NSL's current champions can maintain their drive for their third successive NSL crown.

Sydney Croatia skipper and Soeceroo striker, Graeme Arnold, said last night:

"We hope to make it three wins in a row against Marconi. I'm just sorry that we have to meet them under these circumstances, as they will be seething for revenge."

Last Sunday, Melbourne Croatia took over the top of the table lead just ahead of Marconi as the latter suffered a rare successive loss, going down 3-1 to Melbourne Hellas and thus compounding the previous week's 1-0 deficit against Melita Eagles.

Sydney Croatia, who have stiffened their mid-field by pushing forward sweeper, Mark Jones, and dropping back Arnold into the middle line to give themselves a



ROBBIE WHEATLEY

steadier 4-4-2 formation, is expected to retain last week's winning combination against Blacktown City.

Outstanding teenager Mark Babic filled Jones' sweeper's role admirably, whilst midfielder Velimir Kupresak slotted into the right back spot to plug up Ante Rumora's absence due to injury.

Marconi coach Berti

Mariani is counting the days until his champion right midfielder Ian Gray returns from injury.

A Marconi side without Gray in their middle-line has a vulnerable look about it.

In typical, sceptical fashion, Mariani commented: "We will just have to wait and see on Sunday. That's all I can really tell you, isn't it?"

MARCONI v SYDNEY CROATIA



AT THE
MARCONI STADIUM
SUNDAY

KICK-OFF 2.30PM

YOUTH LEAGUE
12.30PM



FRED DE JONG

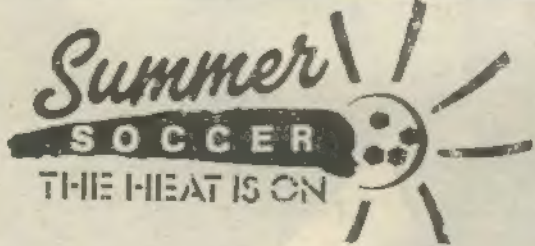
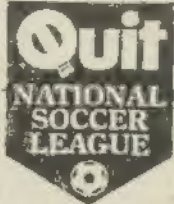


GRAHAM ARNOLD



BRESCIA FURNITURE

Weekend fixtures



★ Check daily newspapers for possible changes to kickoff times
NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE GAMES

ROUND 22

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

BLACKTOWN CITY v SUNSHINE GC
SYDNEY OLYMPIC v ADELAIDE CITY

Gabbie Stadium 3pm
St George Stadium 7pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

MELBOURNE CROATIA v SOUTH MELBOURNE
MARCONI v SYDNEY CROATIA
PRESTON v APIA LEICHHARDT
WOLLONGONG CITY v ST GEORGE
ADELAIDE HELLAS v MELITA EAGLES

Somers St 3pm
Marconi Stadium 3pm
Connor Res 3pm
Brandon Park 3pm
Hindmarsh Stadium 8pm

CADET JOURNALIST

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY wishes to sincerely thank the many people who applied for the recently advertised job.

The position has now been filled, but be assured that your interest was greatly appreciated — Ed.

Rare Olympic win in Melbourne

BY GREG BLAKE

FOR a side which is still far from assured of a finals place any win, as the cliché goes, is a good win.

But Sydney Olympic's 1-0 victory at Sunshine George Cross last Sunday carried far more significance for last season's grand final runner-up than a meagre two points in a frantic finals race.

Olympic, as cool and composed as it might have been given the circumstances, finally broke its Melbourne hoodoo and scored a confidence-building first away win since December to lift the club back into finals calculations.

But dull and windswept Skinner Reserve was never about to become Olympic's graveyard last weekend as it left a half-strength Sunshine team in its wake.

From the outset it was clear that any upset would only come as a result of Olympic errors and when Ernie Tapai's wildly spinning shot across the goalface failed to capitalise on one such error in the early going, Sunshine was in for a tough afternoon.

In contrast, Olympic looked sharp going forward and 12 minutes in the visitors struck for the only goal of the game when Grant Lee's carefully weighted through ball fell for Robert Ironside and the Kiwi powerhouse volleyed home under pressure with his shot nipping in off an upright.



Apia's Graham Jennings in full flight against St George last Sunday — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

Determined Sunshine snapped at Olympic's heels — a 32nd minute Chris Ketsakidis header came off the underside of the crossbar before being cleared — but the inexperience of a side which has lost seven regulars from the early portion of the season shouldn't have been in the same classroom as Olympic.

With Robbie Hooker, Clint Gosling, Steve Georgakakis and Co. in complete control it was just a matter of Olympic all but playing time out.

But Grant Lee and one or two others including 20-year-old rookie Steve Refenes were having none of it and they continued to

pressure the home team with restrained but none the less dangerous attacking exploits.

Refenes, an exciting young player who dominated his left flank on Sunday and must rate a chance of making Olympic's first team in the finals, muffed two chances for glory when he might have scored in the second half.

SUNSHINE: Keogh 7, Alevisos 4 (Attard 75m), Roodhouse 6, Waddell 6, Parton 5, Ketsakidis 7, Kindtner 6, Fabrizio 5, Muscat 5, Haeler 5, Tapai 5.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Gosling 7, Barrett 6, Georgakakis 7, Hooker 7, Pistanlitis 6, Bernal 6, Hristodoulou 6, Ironside 7, Refenes 7, Lee 7, Perinovic 5 (Phillips 85m).

SCORER: Ironside 12m for Olympic.

YELLOW CARDS: Alevisos 50m, Haeler 52m, Parton 88m for Sunshine.

REFEREE: J. Fraser 7. **CROWD:** 1190.

Saints' vital point in 0-0 encounter

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

BLUSTERY conditions at the St George Stadium killed off any aspirations a relegation threatened St George had of pulling off a shock result over visitors Apia, but were grateful for the precious point for the scoreless draw.

The lone point, plus Adelaide Hellas' 7-0 thrashing by Wollongong City, gave the Saints a greater cushion between themselves and the South Australians in the relegation zone.

St George skipper and free-back Andy Koczka commented:

"Unless you were out there in the middle, you have no idea how bad that wind was. We had it against us in the first half which understandably gave Apia a slight edge.

"The second half was just as bad plus the rain came and it killed off any type of hope for good Soccer being played."

In what could honestly be described as one of the worst matches seen at St George Stadium this season, the swirling wind played havoc with both teams.

In fact the real heroes were the goalkeepers — John Filan for Saints and Tony Pezzano for Apia — who did marvellously well in such treacherous if not atrocious conditions as the

ball swung and dipped in the air.

Apia, looking more and more like a toothless tiger these days without their injured stars Rod Brown and Brian Ellem, flung centre-back Darren Stewart into a striker's role to partner Peter Murray in a desperate makeshift attack.

In a moment of rare excitement, industrious midfielder Shane Clinch cracked a vicious 25 metre drive on target in the 10th minute which launched a fully stretched Filan to tip over his cross-bar.

Repeated free-kicks in the second half by the Saints, struck by Tony Krslovic and Andy Koczka, were all well off target because of the windy conditions.

Apia almost pulled the game out of the fire in the last minute of the match.

The 82nd minute substitute, Nick Theodoropoulos, gained possession deep in his own half and streaked upfield in a 30 metre raid before knocking a perfect ball wide to the left to pick up Jason Van Blerk.

Best for the home side were Filan, David Green and Craig Moffitt.

ST GEORGE: Filan 8; Green 7, Dean 6, O'Shea 6, Koczka 6, Spanoudakis 6; Harper 6, Moffitt 7; Kakakios 6 (Morakias 84m), Krslovic 6, Bingley 6 (Poric 70m).

APIA: Pezzano 8; M.Brown 6, Stankovic 6, Halliday 7, Jennings 6; Bundalo 6, Okon 6, Clinch 6, Van Blerk 6; Murray 6, Stewart 7 (Theodoropoulos 82m).

Yellow cards: Bingley 66m for St George and Van Blerk 88m for Apia.

Referee: T. McRoe 8. **Crowd:** 1,897.

Quit National League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melbourne Croatia	21	12	4	5	42	22	28
Marconi	21	11	6	4	40	21	28
South Melbourne	21	12	4	5	32	19	28
Adelaide City	21	10	7	4	33	20	27
Sydney Olympic	21	11	4	6	34	20	26
Apia Leichhardt	21	9	8	4	28	18	26
Sydney Croatia	21	8	5	8	31	31	21
Preston	21	8	4	9	25	25	20
Melita Eagles	21	8	4	9	19	22	20
Wollongong City	21	7	4	10	26	34	18
Sunshine	21	6	4	11	23	37	16
St George	21	4	7	10	22	34	15
Adelaide Hellas	21	5	2	14	18	48	12
Blacktown City	21	3	3	15	22	44	9

Results

MELITA EAGLES 1 (G. Brown) MELBOURNE CROATIA 2 (M. Talajic, I. Kelic) at Melita Stadium. Crowd: 3023.

WOLLONGONG CITY 7 (P. Brodnik 6, Z. Hrivotski) ADELAIDE HELLAS 0 at Brandon Park. Crowd: 1102.

ST GEORGE 0 APIA LEICHHARDT 0 at St George Stadium. Crowd: 1897.

SOUTH MELBOURNE 3 (G. van Egmond o.g., K. Taliadoros, P. Tsolakis) MARCONI 1 (P. Katholos) at Middle Park. Crowd: 6453.

SYDNEY CROATIA 2 (M. Jones, D. Seal) BLACKTOWN 0 at the Croatian Sports Centre. Crowd: 2870.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 0 SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (R. Ironside) at Skinner Reserve. Crowd: 1190.

ADELAIDE CITY 2 (S. Maxwell 2) PRESTON 1 (A. Zinni) at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 4460.

Top Scorers

Greg Brown	(Melita Eagles)	12
Zlatko Nastevski	(Marconi)	11
Abbas Saad	(Olympic)	11
David Seal	(Sydney Croatia)	11
Rod Brown	(Apia Leichhardt)	10
Peter Tsolakis	(St Melbourne)	10
Zeljko Adzic	(Melbourne Croatia)	9
Paul Brodnik	(Wollongong)	9
Tony Krslovic	(St George)	9
Steve Smith	(Preston)	9

Crowds

ROUND 21: 20,004
AVERAGE PER GAME: 2,858
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 436,124
AVERAGE PER ROUND: 20,765

Team of Round 21

A. McPherson (Melita), A. Davidson (Melbourne Croatia), A. Tobin (AdCity), M. Ivanovich (AdCity), G. Hannah (Melb Croatia), P. Wade (South Melbourne), R. Easthorpe (Wollongong), Z. Hristovski (Wollongong), P. Trimboli (South Melbourne), P. Brodnik (Wollongong), D. Crainie (Wollongong).

Player of Round 21

Pat Brodnik (Wollongong).

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Midfield action at St George Stadium between Apia Leichhardt and home side Saints — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

Souths demolish Marconi

BY JOHN MANGAN

ANY doubts that South Melbourne Hellas are genuine championship contenders were dispelled last Sunday at Middle Park as the team humiliated reigning champs Marconi 3-1.

The damage was done in the first half as Hellas, and in particular Paul Trimboli, ran riot. Marconi had no answer to the blond striker whose every touch seemed to create opportunities for his teammates.

By the half-time break Hellas had built a 3-0 lead, and were tearing apart the visitors' defence so easily that a 5-0 or 6-0 victory was not out of the question.

But it was a much more disciplined Marconi team which came out for the second term. They held Hellas which gradually ran out of steam, and created plenty of scoring chances.

Marconi boss, Berti

Mariani was in a thoughtful mood after the game: "We were spectators for most of the first half," he said. "At half-time I just told them to play."

But despite Marconi's revival, they could not make up the ground they lost in the first half.

Paul Wade had started their problems in the 7th minute when he nodded on a corner from Peter Tsolakis at the near post. Former Melbourne City JUST defender Gary van Egmond got his head to the ball but deflected it into the net via the far post.

On the half-hour Trimboli pushed a through-ball into the path of the quicksilver Kim Taliadoros, who slammed it past keeper Bob Catlin.

Just before half-time Taliadoros and Trimboli again combined with one of their one-tws which have proved so effective in the past.

When Trimboli re-

ceived the return ball he slipped it past Marconi's Gerry Gomez into the path of Tsolakis who took no chances hitting it first time to make it 3-0.

Peter Katholos, who had come on at half-time for Matteo Colucci, marked his 29th birthday with Marconi's consolation goal which came in the 76th minute from a long-range shot.

Despite Marconi's domination late in the game, Hellas created a number of chances on break and World Cup referee Richard Lorenc incensed the crowd by denying two Hellas claims for penalties, including an apparent hand-ball by Jean Paul de Marigny.

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS: MacLaren 7, Healy 6, Postecoglou 6, Durakovic 6, Blair 6, Wade 7, Taliadoros 6, Peterson 6 (Palaisides 65m), Trimboli 8, Wright 6, Tsolakis 7.

MARCONI: Catlin 6, van Egmond 6, de Marigny 5, Calderan 6, Wheatley 5, Gomez 5 (Glavovic 55m), McCulloch 5, Okon 6, de Jong 5, Colucci 5 (Katholos 6), Lowe 5.



BRUCE MACLAREN

SCORERS: Van Egmond o.g. 7m, Taliadoros 30m, Tsolakis 45m for South Melbourne; Katholos 76m for Marconi.

REFEREE: R. Lorenc 6.
CROWD: 6453.

Six goals for Pat Brodnik!

BY LEN CHAFER

WOLLONGONG City thrashed Adelaide Hellas 7-0 at Brandon Park last Sunday with Pat Brodnik setting a club record and a NSL record by scoring six goals.

Brodnik was the star of the show when he left the Hellas defence time and time again flat-footed.

He started his scoring spree as early as the third minute when he blasted a 25-metre left foot low drive which skidded on the wet surface and sailed into the corner of the net.

Zivko Hristovski scored from a direct cornerkick on the left when with the help of a strong wind the ball nestled into the top corner of the net in the 27th minute and Brodnik struck again in the 31st minute when he played a one-two with Paul McFadden on the far right.

He took the ball to the byline towards goal and when the Hellas defence thought he was going to cross the ball, Brodnik shot towards the far post to see the ball go into the goal.

With the half-time score 3-0 to Wollongong Adelaide had to rethink and reorganise themselves for the second half.

Adelaide did have an advantage in the second half kicking with the wind, but Wollongong and particular Brodnik had other ideas.

Brodnik completed his hat-trick in the 50th minute when Danny Crainie again provided a perfect cross for Brodnik to run onto and beat the goalkeeper with another low drive.

At this stage a very strong gale and a heavy downpour hit Brandon

Park. The playing conditions became very difficult and both teams found their passes were not reaching the target.

But it was that man Brodnik again, who like the storm, struck hard and swift, to notch his fourth goal.

It happened in the 62nd minute when Skeen won the ball in midfield, pushed the ball to McFadden who sent it out on the left to Crainie whose accurate cross found Brodnik, whose shot was saved by Hellas goalkeeper Chris Tsoleridis.

From the corner by Crainie, David Ratcliffe headed on for Brodnik to slam the ball into the net.

Five minutes later Brodnik went "nap" when he scored his fifth goal, again it was a Skeen-Crainie combination that found Crainie delivering another good pass from the left and Brodnik did the rest.

The crowd was calling out for six from Brodnik, and he did not disappoint when in the 87th minute Easthorpe sent Brodnik into the clear just past the half-way line.

Brodnik had no-one in sight as he raced towards goal, drew the



Pat Brodnik is embraced by Randall Easthorpe after one of his six goals — Photo courtesy Illawarra Mercury.

goalkeeper and slid his sixth goal into the empty net to cap a once in a lifetime performance.

WOLLONGONG CITY: Bouhoutos 6, Skeen 7, Murphy 7, Ratcliffe 7, Vilestra 6, Morlando 6, McFadden 7, Hristovski 7, Easthorpe 7, Brodnik 9, Crainie 8.

ADELAIDE HELLAS: Tsoleridis 5, Hiern 5, (Reynolds 55m), Mills 5, Mousoulis 5, (Sterrey 65m), Slager 5, Miranda 5, Brazzale 4, Kidd 6, Pollis 5, Rankin 5, Blair 5.

SCORERS: Brodnik 3, 31, 50, 62, 67 & 87m, Hristovski 25m for Wollongong.

REFEREE: G. Power 7.

CROWD: 1102.



David Skeen

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Sydney Croatia storm home

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

A fierce thunderstorm which lashed the Croatian Sports Centre midway through the second half last Sunday forced referee Manny Loupis to suspend the game for 20 minutes but it did not stop Sydney Croatia from grabbing an easy 2-0 win and send Blacktown City tumbling towards certain relegation.

At the time the storm hit, Croatia were comfortably holding on to a first half 1-0 lead after man of the match Mark Jones got his head to a Velimir Kupresak corner kick in the 25th minute.

Loupis allowed the game to continue as the fans made a frantic dash for whatever shelter was available from the driving rain and hailstones but in the end the referee was forced to call a halt in the 65th minute until the worst of the storm blew away.

When play finally resumed, the pitch had become an absolute mud heap with ground markings completely washed away and the players finding it impossible to play their normal game.

Until Croatia hit the front, a tedious lifeless encounter was fast degenerating into a non-event with neither side prepared to try anything adventurous but seconds before the goal, Kupresak slung over an inch perfect cross on to

the head of a totally unmarked David Seal to send a strong header just inside the post which looked like going in until keeper Steve Mautone flung himself sideways to turn around for a corner.

But Mautone's effort was in vain. Jones was allowed to roam free into the box and headed home Kupresak's corner with the greatest of ease.

Striker Zeljko Jurin gave himself a good opportunity to increase the lead when he neatly chested down a Seal ball inside the box three minutes after the break and hit his shot on the turn but Mautone again came to the Demons' rescue with another fine save.

Once the savage thunderstorm hit the stadium and Loupis ordered both teams off the park it seemed that Blacktown might have been saved from another certain defeat but when the match was restarted Croatia simply continued where they had left off.

Substitute Manis Lamond burst away on a 35-metre run in the 71st minute and sent his low cross into the middle for Seal to collect five metres out and hammer his shot in off the near post.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Frankon 6, Babic 6, Grbevski 6, Hunter 6, Jones 8, Kupresak 7, Ricoy 6 (Lamond 62m), Gojevic 6, Arnold 7, Seal 6, Jurin 6 (Batten 81m).

BLACKTOWN: Mautone 7, Carter 6, Longo 6, Yankos 6, Maier 5, Northam 6, Gibson 6.



Brilliant young St George goalkeeper John Filan has the situation covered against Apia Leichhardt — Photo HECTOR CARRASCO.

Ferguson 6, Odzakov 6, Arambasic 6, McArdle 6 (McKinna 68m).
SCORERS: Jones 25m, Seal 71m for Croatia.

YELLOW CARDS: Kupresak 87m for Croatia; Longo 80m for Blacktown.
REFEREE: M. Loupis 6.
CROWD: 2870.

Maxwell's brace

BY ALAN CLARK

POWERHOUSE Steve Maxwell kept under-strength Adelaide City in the title race with the two goals which handed Preston 2-1 at Hindmarsh last Sunday.

But, for Preston, charity begins away from home as they handed City their two golden moments.

First, in 20 minutes, Maxwell was allowed amazing latitude by the Preston defence to run on to a long Alex Tobin throw and bury a short past Phil Trainanedes.

Then a dreadful Andrew Zinni back pass put the defence in a pickle again and Maxie finished off from a mis-hit shot by young Michael Brooks.

Teenage striker Brooks had been drafted into the City side with the suspension of skipper Sergio Melita and midfield general Adrian Santrac.

Reshaped City never looked comfortable but Preston did not have the firepower to capitalise.

The visitors were not helped with the early withdrawal of Oscar Crino. He went off after just 19 minutes with a thigh strain.

Zinni did pull one back in 67 minutes when he took advantage of a scramble in front of goal but he earlier had missed a better chance.

Just after the break, he scampered into

attack and took the ball round shaky Socceron keeper Robert Zabica.

But he did not retain his composure to turn the chance into a score.

City coach Zoran Matić believes City would have to be "idiots" not now to make the playoffs.

"Really, we would be if we did not make it now," said Matić. "It doesn't really matter what we do outside if we pick up four points here."

"But we want to finish as high as we can. We like to entertain but it is very difficult when you have two boys out of the one line as we did here."

City obviously missed skipper Melita and Santrac but Maxwell kept it in clover with two well-taken first half goals from Preston gifts.

The visitors got back into the game in the second half with an Andrew Zinni goal but City held firm.

ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica 5, Shillabeer 6, Tobin 7, (Talladira 69m), Ivanovic 7, Flounders 6, T. Vidmar 6, Brooks 6, (Barbaro 82m), Mullen 6, Maxwell 7, A. Vidmar 6.

PRESTON: Trainanedes 6, Runje 6, Jolevski 7, Jackson 6, Tasevski 6, Woodall 6, Matcevic 6, (Ristevski 81m), Matata 6, R. Markovac 7, Crino (J. Markovac 19m), Zinni 7.

SCORERS: Maxwell 20m and 37m for City; Zinni 67 for Preston.

YELLOW CARD: Matcevic 14m for Preston.
REFEREE: C. Bambridge 6.
CROWD: 4460.

Gritty Melbourne Croatia victory

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

LEADING title challenger Melbourne Croatia was forced to display a large dose of grit and determination before overcoming a highly spirited Melita Eagles 2-1 in a bruising and at times fierce, no holds-barred contest at South Granville last Saturday night.

Despite the unnecessary early spite allowed to creep into the match by the leniency of referee Peter Spiers, the sizzling pace of the game, together with a high quality brand of football served up by both sides, gave fans a thrill-a-minute contest which at times resembled a sudden-death cup tie.

Spiers was finally forced to start flashing his yellow card after Mark Talajic clashed heavily with Melita's Aylee Gene in the 30th minute, then Talajic was again involved in an incident with Marshall Soper 60 seconds later which resulted in Croatia's Andrew Marth and Soper getting their bookings.

For 20 minutes, the Eagles took a firm grip on midfield and forced Croatia on the back foot. Gene could have easily opened the score with just five minutes gone but had his attempt blocked by keeper David Miller's outstretched leg.

Melita continued to carry the game to their opponents with the enterprising Gene and a menacing looking Soper maintaining the pressure but when the breakthrough duly arrived, it was Croatia who went ahead.

Talajic picked up a square pass from Fran-



Apia's Tony Pezzano takes a tumble in the 0-0 draw with St George last Sunday — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

cis Awaritefe after 23 minutes, slipped around Andrew Callanan and unleashed a left foot drive from the edge of the area which keeper Alex McPherson got a hand to but was unable to stop.

Melita should have hit back within two minutes but Soper lost his nerve and shot wide after a Greg Brown through ball left him with just Miller to beat.

For a while, Croatia began to dictate terms until the gutsy Eagles suddenly responded on the stroke of half-time when Marth brought down Hugo Gimenez inside the box.

Brown made no mistake from the penalty spot for his 12th goal of the season and set up a pulsating second half.

Both sides threw themselves at each other looking for a winner with first Croatia bringing the best out of

McPherson when he twice denied Ivan Kelic shortly after the break, then Gene wasting two golden opportunities within a minute after being perfectly set up by Brown.

The stalemate was finally broken in the 76th minute with Kelic climbing high to meet a Branko Milosevic corner kick and power his header wide of McPherson.

MELITA: McPherson 8, Dickinson 6, Callanan 6, Barrios 7, Gonzalez 7, Mason 6, Vial 5 (Parson 82m), Gimenez 6, Soper 7, Gene 7, Brown 6.
MELBOURNE CROATIA: Miller 7, Davidson 8, Marth 6, Donnelly 6, Hannah 7, Talajic 6, Milosevic 7, Markovski 5 (Selemidis 69m), Kelic 6 (Caleta 89m), Adzic 6, Awaritefe 6.

SCORERS: Talajic 23m, Kelic 76m for Croatia; Brown pen. 48m for Melita.

YELLOW CARDS: Soper 32m, Gene 75m for Melita; Talajic 30m, Marth 32m, Davidson 63m for Croatia.
REFEREE: P. Spiers 5.
CROWD: 3023.

U/23 PLAYERS WANTED

SYDNEY CROATIA

SYDNEY CROATIA is now inviting players for its Under 23 squad to play in the NSW State League "Conference B" competition. Talented players are sought, and must have a free clearance from their current club. All trainings will be under the guidance of senior NSL coach, TONY VRZINA.

Players are wanted for the Club's Under 19s team.



Top soccer action

PASCHALIDIS

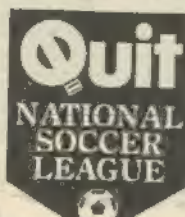
WEEKLY — MARCH 21, 1990

NSL CUP

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

MARCONI v APIA LEICHHARDT

Marconi Stadium, 7.30pm



SOCCER POOLS

THE POOLS



THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST WEEK 243 SAT 24 MARCH

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	COVENTRY	CHARLTON	1
	LUTON	MILLWALL	2
	Q.P.R.	NOTTINGHAM F.	3
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	WIMBLEDON	SHEFF. WED.	4
	BOURNEMOUTH	WATFORD	5
	LEICESTER	PLYMOUTH	6
	OLDHAM	HULL	7
	PORT VALE	WOLVES	8
	SHEFF. UTD.	BARNLEY	9
	SUNDERLAND	WEST HAM	10
	WEST BROM.	STOKE	11
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	BIRMINGHAM	CHESTER	12
	BLACKPOOL	NORTHAMPTON	13
	BOLTON	BRENTFORD	14
	CREWE	PRESTON	15
	FULHAM	READING	16
	LEYTON O.	ROTHERHAM	17
	MANSFIELD	TRANMERE	18
	NOTTS C.	BRISTOL C.	19
	SHREWSBURY	WALSALL	20
	WIGAN A.	HUDDERSFIELD	21
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	ALDERSHOT	YORK	22
	EXETER	ROCHDALE	23
	GILLINGHAM	GRIMSBY	24
	HALIFAX	CHESTERFIELD	25
	HARTLEPOOL	TORQUAY	26
	PETERBORO	BURNLEY	27
	SCARBORO	HEREFORD	28
	SCUNTHORPE	CARLISLE	29
	WREXHAM	COLCHESTER	30
	DARLINGTON	MERTHYR T.	31
	ENFIELD	NORTHWICH	32
	KETERING	BARROW	33
	STAFFORD	KIDMINSTER	34
	SUTTON UTD.	ALTRINCHAM	35
	TELFORD	BARNET	36
	WELLING UTD.	CHELLENHAM	37
	WYCOMBE	CHORLEY	38

RESERVE MATCHES	YEovil	BOSTON U.	39
	ABERDEEN	MOTHERWELL	40
	DUNDEE U.	DUNDEE	41
	DUNFERMLINE	CELTIC	42
	HEARTS	ST. MIRREN	43
	RANGERS	HIBERNIAN	44
	AIRDRIE	ALLOA	45
	AYR	FALKIRK	46
	CLYDE	ALBION R.	47
	CLYDEBANK	RAITH	48
	HAMILTON	S. JOHNST'NE	49
	MEADOWBANK	PARTICK	50
	MORTON	FORFAR	51
	ARBROATH	QUEENS P.	52
	BRECHIN	MONTROSE	53
	COWDENBATH	BERWICK	54
	DUMBARTON	KILMARNOCK	55

* G.M. VAUXHALL CONFERENCE PREMIER DIVISION

THE POOLS RESULT HISTORY AT 17/3/90 — WEEK 242

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURRED	NO. OF WEEKS SINCE EACH NUMBER OCCURRED
1 25 29 38 4 14 30 44 35 44	1 10 1 4 16 5 0 5 0 2
2 42 54 48 12 13 14 45 46 49 43	30 2 1 1 13 8 14 15 16 2
3 17 45 44 35 50 45 49 50 47	4 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 0
4 45 54 52 60 53 69 51 51	18 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 0
5 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42	33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42
6 49 63 55 65 51 51	11 6 2 0 1 0 0 0 0 0

Results History is from Week 36, the start of Six from 36 Pools

ENGLISH DIV 1: Arsenal 0 Chelsea 1 Charlton 1 Nottingham Forest 1, Coventry 1 Sheffield Wednesday 4, Derby 0 Aston Villa 1, Everton 4 Crystal Palace 0, Luton 1 Manchester City 1, Norwich 1 Millwall 1, Queen's Park Rangers 3 Tottenham 1, Wimbledon 3 Southampton 3.

DIV 2: Barnsley 1 Oldham 0, Bournemouth 0 Sunderland 1, Brighton 2 Bradford 1, Leeds 3 West Ham 2, Leicester 2, Port Vale 0, Middlesbrough 0 Blackburn 3, Newcastle 2, Ipswich 1, Portsmouth 2, Oxford 1, Sheffield United 3, Wolverhampton 0, Stoke 0, Plymouth 0, Swindon 1, Hull 3, West Bromwich 2, Watford 0.

DIV 3: Birmingham 4 Rotherham 1, Bristol City 2 Brentford 0, Bury 1 Chester 0, Cardiff 1, Huddersfield 5, Crewe 1, Swansea 1, Fulham 1, Bristol Rovers 2, Leyton Orient 0, Tranmere 1, Mansfield 2, Shrewsbury 1, Notts County 2, Walsall 0, Preston 0, Northampton 0, Reading 1, Blackpool 1, Played Friday: Wigan 2, Bolton 0.

DIV 4: Burnley 1 Maidstone 1, Colchester 1, Aldershot 0, Doncaster 2, Torquay 1, Exeter 2, Peterborough 0, Hereford 1, Stockport 2, Lincoln 1, Chesterfield 1, Rochdale 0, Grimsby 1, Scarborough 1, Southend 1, Scunthorpe 0, Hartlepool 1, Wrexham 1, Carlisle 0, Played Friday: Cambridge 2, York 2, Gillingham 3, Halifax 1.

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIV: St Mirren 0 Rangers 0.

DIV 1: Clyde 1 Raith 0, Falkirk 2, Partick 0, Hamilton 2, Ayr 1, Meadowbank 0, Forfar 3, Morton 3, Albion 0, St Johnstone 6, Alloa 0.

DIV 2: Arbroath 3, Montrose 0, Brechin 3, Dumbarton 0, East Fife 1, East Stirling 1, Queen's Park 0, Cowdenbeath 2, Stenhousemuir 2, Kilmarnock 1, Stranraer 3, Queen of the South 0.

N IRLISH LEAGUE: Ards 0 Glentworth 1, Bangor 0, Ballymena 1, Distillery 2, Crusaders 2, Linfield 3, Carrick 1, Newry 1, Glentworth 0, Played Friday: Larne 2, Coleraine 1.

SCOTTISH CUP, q-f: Aberdeen 4 Hearts 1, Clydebank 1 Stirling 1, Dundee United 1 Hibernian 0, Dunfermline 0 Celtic 0.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aston Villa	29	18	4	7	46	26
Liverpool	27	15	8	4	51	26
Arsenal	29	14	5	10	42	29
Chelsea	30	12	10	8	46	41
Notts Fst	29	12	8	9	42	33
Coventry	30	13	5	12	33	41
Southampton	29	11	10	8	58	50
Everton	28	12	6	10	39	34
Tottenham	30	12	6	12	43	39
Norwich	30	10	11	9	31	32
Wimbledon	28	9	12	7	37	32
QPR	27	10	9	8	33	30
Derby	28	11	5	12	34	26
Sheff Wed	30	9	9	12	28	38
Crystal Pal	28	9	6	13	32	55
Man Utd	28	8	8	12	34	37
Luton	30	6	12	12	33	46
Man City	29	7	9	13	30	44
Millwall	29	5	10	14	34	49
Charlton	30	5	9	16	24	42

DIVISION TWO

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds	35	19	10	6	63	41
Sheff Utd	33	17	12	4	54	34
Swindon	35	17	9	9	66	47
Newcastle	34	15	12	7	61	41
Blackburn	34	13	14	7	61	49
Wolves	35	14	11	10	54	46
Sunderland	34	13	13	8	52	50
Oldham	32	13	12	7	47	37
Ipswich	34	13	11	10	48	49
West Ham	34	13	10	11	50	42
Port Vale	35	11	13	11	44	41
Oxford	35	13	7	15	47	48
Leicester	34	12	10	12	48	52
Watford	35	11	10	14	40	42

DIVISION ONE

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Airdrie	31	21	6	4	64	30
St Johnst	32	20	7	5	68	32
Hamilton	31	12	11	8	44	32
Falkirk	31	12	10	9	50	40
Clydebank	30	12	8	10	58	49
Partick	32	10	11	11	53	45
Raith	31	12	7	12	43	44
Ayr	32	10	11	11	37	51
Morton	32	7	15	10	32	37
Mdwbk	31	10	9	12	32	39
Clyde	30	8	10	12	29	36
Forfar	32	6	12	14	41	56
Alloa	30	6	8	16	34	55
Albion	31	5	9	17	35	64

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	29	16	9	4	39	16
Aberdeen	29	13	8	8	47	30
Hearts	29	13	8	8	48	32
Celtic	29	10	11	8	34	25
Dundee Utd	29	9	11	9	32	34
Motherwell	29	9	10	10	37	38
Hibernian	29	10	8	11	29	35
Dunfermline	29	9	6	14	31	43
St Mirren	29	8	7	14	22	43
Dundee	29	4	10	15	34	57

DIVISION ONE

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Airdrie	31	21	6	4	64	30
St Johnst	32	20	7	5	68	32
Hamilton	31	12	11	8	44	32
Falkirk	31	12	10	9	50	40
Clydebank	30	12	8	10	58	49
Partick	32	10	11	11	53	45
Raith	31	12	7	12	43	44
Ayr	32	10	11	11	37	51
Morton	32	7	15	10	32	37
Mdwbk	31	10	9	12	32	39
Clyde	30	8	10	12	29	36
Forfar	32	6	12	14	41	56
Alloa	30	6	8	16	34	55
Albion	31	5	9	17	35	64

DIVISION TWO

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds	35	19	10	6	63	41
Sheff Utd	33	17	12	4	54	34
Swindon	35	17	9	9	66	47
Newcastle	34	15	12	7	61	41
Blackburn	34	13	14	7	61	49
Wolves	35	14	11	10	54	46
Sunderland	34	13	13	8	52	50
Oldham	32	13	12	7	47	37
Ipswich	34	13	11	10	48	49
West Ham	34	13	10	11	50	42
Port Vale	35	11	13	11	44	41
Oxford	35	13	7	15	47	48
Leicester	34	12	10	12	48	52
Watford	35	11	10	14	40	42

DIVISION ONE

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Airdrie	31	21	6	4	64	30
St Johnst	32	20	7	5	68	32
Hamilton	31	12	11	8	44	32
Falkirk	31	12	10	9	50	40
Clydebank	30	12	8	10	58	49
Partick	32	10	11	11	53	45
Raith	31	12	7	12	43	44
Ayr	32	10	11	11	37	51
Morton	32	7	15	10	32	37
Mdwbk	31	10	9	12	32	39
Clyde	30	8	10	12	29	36
Forfar	32	6	12	14	41	56
Alloa	30	6	8	16	34	55
Albion	31	5	9	17	35	64

Note: Forfar deducted two points for fielding ineligible player.

RESULTS OF WEEK 242 SAT 17 MARCH, 1990

Total Prize Pool is \$227,923.20
Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order): 7, 24, 30, 31, 36, 38.
Supplementary Number: 5

Division 1
The Prize Pool is \$148,205.35
No Winner Jackpot Week 243
(est. \$300,000 next week)

Division 2
The Prize Pool is \$4,558.45
1 provisional winner of \$4,558.45

Division 3
The Prize Pool is \$13,675.20
56 winners of \$244.20 ea

Division 4
The Prize Pool is \$34,137.20
2,753 winners of \$12.40 ea

Division 5
2,378 winners of \$11.50 ea

MATCH RESULTS

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	CHARLTON	NOTTINGHAM F.	1	1-1
	COVENTRY	SHEFF. WED.	2	1-4
	EVERTON	CRYSTAL P.	3	4-0
	LUTON	MAN. CITY	4	1-1
	NORWICH	MILLWALL	5	1-1
	Q.P.R.	TOTTENHAM	6	3-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	WIMBLEDON	SOUTHAMPTON	7	3-3
	BARNLEY	OLDHAM	8	1-0
	BOURNEMOUTH	SUNDERLAND	9	0-1
	BRIGHTON	BRADFORD C.	10	2-1
	LEEDS	WEST HAM	11	3-2
	LEICESTER	PORT VALE	12	2-0
	MIDDLESBRO	BLACKBURN	13	0-3
	NEWCASTLE	IPSWICH	14	2-1
	PORTSMOUTH	OXFORD UTD.	15	2-1
	SHEFF. UTD.	WOLVES	16	3-0
	STOKE	PLYMOUTH	17	0-0
	SWINDON	HULL	18	1-3
	WEST BROM.	WATFORD	19	2-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	BIRMINGHAM	ROTHERHAM	20	4-1
	BRISTOL C.	BRENTFORD	21	2-0
	BURY	CHESTER	22	1-0
	CARDIFF	HUDDERSFIELD	23	1-5
	CREWE	SWANSEA	24	1-1
	FULHAM	BRISTOL R.	25	1-2
	LEYTON O.	TRANMERE	26	0-1
	MANSFIELD	SHREWSBURY	27	2-1
	NOTTS C.	WALSALL	28	2-0
	PRESTON	NORTHAMPTON	29	0-0
	READING	BLACKPOOL	30	1-1
	BURNLEY	MAIDSTONE	31	1-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	COLCHESTER	ALDERSHOT	32	1-0
	DONCASTER	TORQUAY	33	2-1
	EXETER	PETERBORO	34	2-0
	HEREFORD	STOCKPORT	35	1-2
	LINCOLN	CHESTERFIELD	36	1-1
	ROCHDALE	GRIMSBY	37	0-1
	SCARBORO	SOUTHEND	38	1-1

* Winning match numbers and supplementary number.

RESULTS AND DIVIDEND HOTLINES

Phone: 00555 0787 Australia Wide. Or, Sydney (02) 11520;
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Perth (09) 11520.

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The restructuring of Australian soccer

US-style hoopla not the way to go

BY MIKE TICHER

FRANK Scicluna's article in ASW (31 January 1990) on the future of the NSL deserves a reply.

As with many other commentators, he correctly notes that the League is not in good shape at the moment, that it is dominated to a great extent by ethnically-based clubs in Sydney and Melbourne and is in drastic need of reform.

Where I would take issue with Frank, however, is in his view of exactly how domestic soccer in Australia should be restructured.

In short, his suggestions were these: A dozen new clubs to be created, only two each from Sydney and Melbourne, to contest a national league with no relegation for at least five years; ethnically-based clubs to return to the State Leagues; penalty shoot-outs to decide matches; encouragement of "gimmicks" and "razza-matazz" to attract more support.

To me, these ideas smack not of reform, but of panic.

More specifically, they are reminiscent in almost every way of the greatest disaster in modern soccer promotion — the North American Soccer League.

The NASL had all the elements mentioned by Frank Scicluna, and the same intention — to catapult a country previously lukewarm about soccer into its mainstream within a very few years, without going through the tedious processes of building a solid administrative foundation, workable league structure and, most important of all, a long-term base of support.

In addition, it relied fatally on overseas players, something which Australia, to its great credit, has overcome.

On the other hand, the grandiose plans of the NASL did at least have the benefit of a huge population, concentrated in many large cities, and generally excellent stadiums.

It hardly needs to be stated that Australia is not blessed with either of these two features.

In support of his arguments, Frank cites the "success" of the VFL and NSWRL in establishing new clubs: "If other codes can create those clubs out of absolutely nothing and develop them in areas where traditional support never existed, why can't soccer?"

The answer is, firstly, that not all such transplantations have been such a raging success.

At the time of writing, for example, the

Brisbane Bears VFL players are on strike because they haven't received wages due from last season.

The Bears, along with another "transplant", the Sydney Swans, were the two worst-supported teams in last season's VFL (although their averages were still massive by soccer standards).

Similarly, the Gold Coast Rugby League club drew the second-worst average in the NSWRL.

The success stories are certainly there, but they are by no means the rule in either VFL or RL.

Secondly, there is a huge difference between Frank Scicluna's proposition of an entire league made up of new clubs, and the addition of two or three newly-created clubs to an already established league.

Here the parallel with the NASL is far more instructive.

If clubs are created "out of absolutely nothing", it has to be ensured that their ability to attract fans on a long-term basis is not the only support on which rests the integrity of the entire structure.

The prospect of one artificially-created club travelling from Townsville to play another in Hobart in front of a few hundred fans is one which should send a chill down the spine of any soccer administrator in this country.

In addition to the feasibility of the plan itself, the current state of soccer administration in Australia needs to be considered.

If the NSL and ASF are so manifestly incapable of organising and promoting the game as it stands at the moment, how would they perform given the mammoth task of creating 12 brand new clubs, thousands of miles apart, and controlling and co-ordinating their activities?

Frankly, the mind boggles.

What, then, is the alternative to such root-and-branch restructuring?

The answer, surely, is to build steadily, concentrating first on getting the boring details of structure, administration, marketing and promotion right and nurturing what strengths we have, before plunging wildly into the unknown.

Let us take each problem individually.

First, the "total domination by small-minded ethnic com-



Over the top promotions, American-style, won't fill Australian stadia. The days when Australia will boast its own Maracana Stadium like in Rio, and fill it, are, alas, in the very distant future.

munities" (I'm sure Marconi, Blacktown and Wollongong, to name but three, would reject this statement incidentally.)

Soccer will get nowhere by simply antagonising and patronising the ethnic communities which have, it should be acknowledged, sustained the game for many years in Australia.

However, it can counter the worst aspects of ethnic influence by insisting on certain standards for all clubs, which would be the minimum for playing in the NSL.

For example, each club must have access to an acceptable stadium, and a commitment to its development and upkeep.

In other words, a club like Marconi, although "ethnic", is acceptable, whereas Sydney Olympic, in its present guise, is not.

If Olympic wished to share the St George stadium in a revamped NSL, they should have to invest in its development.

Similarly, clubs must be financially sound, and have proven ability to manage their affairs and to promote themselves adequately.

In this way, those clubs who insist on targetting only their own ethnic community, in their own language, would be excluded.

If such rules were strictly enforced, then the best clubs, whether ethnic or not, would remain in the NSL, while the others, and those unwilling to change, can return to well-deserved obscurity in the State Leagues.

As a spur to help progressive clubs develop their grounds, and other facilities, it would

be enormously beneficial to have a central pool of money for distribution.

In Britain, such a pool is collected from a percentage of money invested in football betting, and administered by an independent body, the Football Trust.

A similar institution here, on a smaller scale, could be a crucial step in the upgrading of facilities.

Promotion and relegation between the State Leagues and the NSL is another key criterion.

To ensure a living competition is maintained, the opportunity for clubs to progress from one to the other should be there.

A league with no way out, either up or down, is a recipe for stagnation and decay. Having said that, the same strict standards should apply for aspiring promotion candidates: adequate facilities, finances and marketing ability.

If such strictures push smaller clubs into amalgamations and a pooling of resources, so much the better.

A real incentive to do so, rather than dictatorial decrees, is far likelier to produce the desired results.

As far as regional imbalance is concerned, a system weighted somewhat against Sydney and Melbourne would suffice.

Since they contain half the population of the entire country between them, it would be unrealistic to expect that they would not supply at least half the teams.

Nevertheless, the presence of teams from Adelaide, Wollongong, Perth, Newcastle and Brisbane, at least, as suggested in Michael Cockerill's excellent

series of articles in the 'Sydney Morning Herald' last year, is clearly desirable.

New clubs from these areas, if they have the players, facilities and support, should be given places in the new NSL, and encouraged by rules of promotion and relegation (for example, one promotion place be reserved for the winner of play-offs between the NSW and Victorian Leagues, and one for the rest).

The adherence to strict rules of acceptance into the NSL might mean that in practice there would be very little movement of clubs in and out, certainly in the first few years.

However, at least the incentive would be there for the ambitious and progressive clubs in the State Leagues.

Finally, it should be accepted by everyone in soccer that there are no instant solutions, and that even the best ideas will take years to come to fruition.

On the other hand, the implementation of such a programme would ensure that Australia never sinks to the level of having no national league, as is now the case in the US.

By setting achievable goals, Australian soccer can develop organically and keep the best of its traditions while still acquiring a new impetus.

By shooting for the moon, as Frank Scicluna suggests, it might change itself so drastically as to be almost unrecognisable as soccer, and still find that no-one wants to watch it in 10 years' time.

I know which prospect I prefer.

The only problem is — who in Australia's soccer administration has the vision and ability to lay down such a programme and see it through?

NSL CUP

Young Olympic side humbles Croatia

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SYDNEY Olympic, playing with an understrength side, crashed Sydney Croatia out of the NSL Cup by a 3-1 margin last Wednesday night at the St George Stadium to now face the winner of tonight's clash between Marconi and Apia in next week's semi-final.

Olympic raced to a 2-0 lead within 10 minutes following goals by centre-back Nick Plataniotis (a header in the third minute) and by midfielder Gary Phillips (a penalty in the 10th).

The Olympic youngsters had too much power, pace and enthusiasm for Sydney Croatia, who were minus their superstar Graham Arnold.

Olympic coach Mick Hickman promoted no less than eight players into the first team: Gary Meier, Lou Triantafyllou, John Koch, Gary Phillips, Tommy Pontidas, Steve Refenes, Alex Aroujo and Jason Bennett.

Hickman's action provoked the NSL to ask the club for a "Please Explain" letter.

A fine John Koch free-kick was well headed into Croatia's net by Plataniotis and following a soft foul by defender Tony Popovic on left midfielder Refenes, Phillips made it 2-0 from the penalty spot sending champion goalkeeper Anthony Franken the wrong way.

Man of the match Grant Lee topped off an excellent performance for Olympic, scoring in the 23rd minute with a fine solo effort from the right. Lee nailed the target with an angled drive into the far left corner of the net from just eight metres.

Sydney Croatia came back with a Velimir Kupresak 12 metre volley following a Pedro Ricoy free kick.

The Olympic goals came too fast and the second half deteriorated into a struggle with Croatia taking control but without luck.

Zeiko Jurin in the 68th minute tried to lob goalkeeper Gary Meier, but the giant veteran custodian stretched high to pull down the danger with both gloves.



Grant Lee

Jurin again was involved in the 71st minute when he crossed to teenage striker David Seal. Seal's short-ranged drive flashed just wide of the Olympic's left post to deny the youngster any joy.

Seal and Croatia's left midfielder Steve Gojevic never stopped fighting for their side.

Olympic youngsters, right-back Lou Triantafyllou, left midfielder Steve Refenes and South American striker Alex Aroujo were outstanding.

But Croatia without Arnold was like an ocean liner without a rudder in heavy seas.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier; Triantafyllou, Plataniotis, Hooker, Koch; Lee, Phillips, Pontidas, Refenes; Aroujo (Sharples 75), Bennett.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Franken; Rumora (Batten 46), Popovic, Jones, Grbevski; Ricoy, Kupresak, Gojevic; Seal, Jurin, Lamond (Babic 65).

Yellow cards: Aroujo 27m, for Olympic; Popovic 30m and Grbevski 44m for Sydney Croatia.

Referee: J. McConnell.

Crowd: 2,475.

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Libertadores Cup

BY MARIO ETCHART

BOLIVIAN champion, The Strongest, began its Libertadores Cup campaign with a 2-0 victory over Oriente Petrolero in the all Bolivian derby in Group 1 played at Hernan Siles stadium, La Paz, in front of 20,000 spectators.

Argentine defender Gustavo Quinteros opened the scoring with a header in the 43rd minute and Paraguayan striker, Julian Jimenez, added a second goal for The Strongest in the 66th.

In the Ecuadorian derby, in the same group, Barcelona and Emelec drew 0-0 in Guayaquil.

Barcelona dominated

the first half with excellent work in midfield from Argentine and Uruguayan midfielders, Marcelo Trabbiani and Mario Saralegui.

But Emelec improved in the second half and went close to opening the score but defender Carlos Russo's free kick was saved in a brilliant effort by Barcelona's goalkeeper Morales.

In Group 5, Paraguayan champion Olimpia scored a dramatic 2-1 victory over traditional rivals Cerro Porteno in their opening game in the Libertadores Cup first qualifying round.

The match was played in front of 40,000 fans at Asuncion's Defensores del Chaco Stadium.

Midfielder Adolfo Jara opened the score for Olimpia in the 15th minute.

In the 37th, Olimpia striker Gonzalez was brought down inside the box and midfielder Luis Monzon, with a perfect shot from the penalty spot, made it 2-0.

Eight minutes before the end replacement Mauricio Perez, with a powerful drive, scored for Cerro Porteno.

Cerro Porteno then put increasing pressure in the last minutes but were unable to break a courageous Olimpia defence.

At the end of the match linesman Astorio Martinez was hit by a projectile and lost con-

sciousness, but after receiving attention in the dressing room, Martinez recovered.

The United States, in its build-up preparation for the World Cup, beat Finland 2-1, in a friendly international played at Tampa Stadium.

It was their first victory over an European national squad in almost 10 years.

The victory, in front of a crowd of 23,000, was the first for the United States against a European side since they beat Luxembourg 2-0 in October 1980.

JOHNNY WARREN

HAS HIS SAY

FIFA warns USSR

FIFA secretary general Joseph Blatter travelled to Moscow to deliver a final warning that the Soviet Union may be kicked out of this year's World Cup soccer tournament.

Blatter said he would hammer out a series of FIFA complaints with Soviet officials about the organisation of football in the increasingly turbulent country.

FIFA has sent an official written warning to the Soviet Federation president Viacheslav Koloskov.

It said that if "illegal practices" were not ended, the Soviet Union could be disqualified from international competition, including the World Cup in June.

FIFA is most worried about the creation of a Union of Football Leagues which says it is running the newly professional Soviet championship.

The world governing body recognises only the Soviet Federation.

It called for "an immediate end to the illegal activities used by your new organisation", and accused clubs which should answer to the Soviet Federation of "committing several violations of regulations".

FIFA has threatened to bring up the Soviet case before the international ruling



SEPP BLATER

body's executive committee on June 5 in Rome, three days before the start of the World Cup.

It warned that this could include the disqualification of Soviet teams from "all FIFA competitions".

Blatter is to meet the Soviet Federation president and sports minister Igor Gremyakin.

The FIFA secretary general also said that clubs from the Georgian republic would be excluded from international competition for refusing to play in the Soviet championship and Cup.

"They can play among themselves, but not in international

competitions and none of our member associations will be allowed to play them," he said.

First Division sides Dynamo Tbilisi and Guria have declared their own act of secession by pulling out of the Soviet championship and cup competition as part of a mounting nationalist campaign in Georgia.

The Georgian Federation has vowed to have nothing more to do with the Soviet parent body and started its own championship and cup.

But FIFA and the European Football Union (UEFA) has refused to recognise the independent organisation for the republic.

Bribes alleged in Greek League



GREEK football was heading for a major corruption scandal after allegations by a leading referee of attempted bribery and match-fixing.

Constantin Dimitriadis wrote to FIFA general secretary Joseph Blatter last month highlighting the problem and extracts of the text were reprinted in the "Eleftherotypia" newspaper.

"Matches in Greece are bought and sold," Dimitriadis informed Blatter and named a

journalist as "the head of a group of people who buy off officials by offering them payments."

He also accused the presidents of leading clubs Olympiakos and AEK Athens of collusion.

Dimitriadis said that Argyris Saliarelis of Olympiakos, and Stratos Gidopoulos of

AEK, informed him they had both agreed that a match between the two clubs, at which Dimitriadis was to officiate, should end in a draw.

The referee said he had been offered sums ranging from three to five million drachma (\$23,819 to \$41,022) on several occasions to "influence the result of a match" or to exert his influence on other officials to favour one team at the expense of another.

Wollongong Macedonia throws out challenge

BY PHIL MARTIN

WOLLONGONG Macedonia not only gained a 2-1 win over Canberra Croatia in the NSW State League round-robin match at Kelly Park Wollongong on Sunday.

outing with the club. Macedonia's two goals came late in the first half from tear-away efforts. Former Sydney City and St George striker Graeme Fletcher made short work of his shot to beat Canberra keeper Tony Giannasca.



Macedonia has offered \$5,000 for his services, but the Wolves seem intent on \$6,000.

The Macedonia strength already is its defence, which gives coach Casey de Bruin an excellent base on which to develop his entire unit.



Warwick Young

They stuck to the job in fine style, to the extent that they showed that they would again be challenging for top honours this year.

Both clubs reached the semi-final series last year, and Croatia showed they would be up amongst the 1990 leaders also.

Macedonia gained from a slick showing by Tony Cabassi in defence.

The former Parramatta Melita star showed out in his first

Then Darren Galway followed up with a headed goal from Paul Kay's free kick.

It was left to Ned Zelic to bring respectability to the visitors, and he struck home with a low shot with just minutes remaining.

Former Wollongong City goalkeeper Warwick Young gave an impressive display in the Macedonia goal.

The big fellow has National League ability, but has not been cleared to Macedonia.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1 ROUND-ROBIN

FIFTH ROUND Saturday, March 24 Group A

Newcastle BHP Austral v Warringah
Freshwater — Austral Park 4pm

Sunday, March 25

Polonia v Canterbury — Knight Park 2.30pm
Avala v North Shore — Knight Park 4.30pm

Group B

Inter Monaro v Wollongong Macedonia —
Marco Polo 4pm
Canberra Croatia v Sydney Macedonia —
Deakin Oval 4pm
Sutherland — bye

North Shore back from dead

BY KEITH GILMOUR

NORTH Shore United returned from a terrible 5-1 hiding by Polonia the previous week to secure a very creditable scoreless draw with high powered BHP Austral at Austral Park in Newcastle.

The BHP-backed side still holds a three-point stranglehold on Group A, and came into the game with those wins on the trot.

But it was the Shore side that was desperately unlucky as early as the opening minute.

Neal Hunter struck a great ball goalwards, only to see BHP goalkeeper Craig Carter brilliantly tip the ball away.

BHP was playing tightly in defence, with Mike Boogaard and Howard Tredinnick being particularly effective.

Their midfield however was fragile in what was an absorbing if not spectacular encounter.

Newcastle's former NSL star Simon Brandt played tirelessly at the front, but went without reward.

Best for the visitors were David Bennett, Aaron Ferguson and Hunter.

The competition so far seems to show that North Shore will be competitive in their return to First Division.

Shire home

Grant Bard netted Sutherland's goal in the 1-0 win over Sydney Macedonia at Seymour Shaw Park.

The rain bucketted down just before kick-off and the lights had to be put on the enable the match to continue.

Sutherland had a number of their squad missing and the game

provided a real test for the players on the park.

They regarded the win as deserved, if by the narrowest of margins.

Nick Oustambasidis was the man who carried Canterbury to their first win of the series, when they came up against Avala in the late game at Chopin Park.

They won 1-0 in an even match.

Avala had the pressure on for a 20-minute burst in the second half but did everything but score.

Best for Avala were experienced Steve Meades in midfield, sweeper Andrew Brockbank and goalkeeper Angelo Rudic.

REGIONAL NEWS

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WOMEN

North Ryde takes over

THE Sydney-based Women's Soccer League has seen some significant changes from last season, with Putney Town, probably the nation's best known women's club team, disappearing from the list.

League promotions officer Uwe Bracklow, said Putney would now be called North Ryde RSL following a merger, while Blacktown had linked up with QNSL club Melita Eagles and would take that club's name.

"Melita has given permission for the women's team to use the main stadium during the winter," Bracklow explained.

Mount Druitt has become Mount Druitt Town, Sutherland, Central Coast and Sharnbrook have gone, while Condell Park, from the Bankstown area, is a completely new club.

Illawarra has been promoted from division two and last year's champion, Liverpool Olympic, and Epping-Eastwood are unchanged, so we will have a seven-team competition in 1990.

Bracklow added.

— GRAHAM COOKE



Terry Patalis fight for possession

Berries boosted

STELIOS Aposporis, a 27-year-old striker, and Griztos Koutropoulos, also 27 and a sweeper or stopper from Greek First Division club Panionios, have been signed by NSW First Division State League club Canterbury Marickville Olympic.

The Berries also signed Australian product Terry Patalis, who played for AEK and was on loan to Greek Second Division side Kalithea.

These players will be a big boost for a Canterbury team that

has to improve a great deal if it is to fight for promotion to the National League this year.

Their recent results

in the pre-season tournament have been anything but encouraging.

—MARIO ETCHART

NSW ROUND ROBIN TABLES & RESULTS

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BHP Austral	4	3	1	0	9	3	7
Polonia	4	1	2	1	6	6	4
Warringah	4	1	2	1	4	5	4
North Shore	4	1	2	1	3	5	4
Avala	4	1	1	2	6	5	3
Canterbury	4	1	1	2	3	7	3

BHP Austral 0 North Shore 0, Polonia 0 Warringah 0, Canterbury 1 Avala 0.

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wollongong Mace	3	2	1	0	7	3	5
Canberra Croatia	3	2	0	1	5	3	4
Sydney Macedonia	3	1	1	1	6	4	3
Sutherland	4	1	1	2	3	6	3
Inter Monaro	3	0	1	2	2	7	1

Wollongong Macedonia 2 Canberra Croatia 1, Sutherland 1 Sydney Macedonia 0, Inter Monaro bye.

[Round robin final is due to be played on Wednesday night March 28, probably at Marconi Stadium, with details to be confirmed at press time.]

Sydney City or Marconi who is Top of the Pops?

Early shocks galore in Victorian State League

BY GREG BLAKE

RIDICULOUS as it might be to write off the likes of Heidelberg, Brunswick Juventus and Melbourne JUST from contention in the marathon 36-week Victorian State League title race, early results have made it clear that there is no easy ride back to the National League.

For the former high-flying QUIT NSL trio the hectic opening weekend's schedule of two rounds in three days brought nothing but heartache.

The ex-NSL teams couldn't win a game, with the demoralised trio picking up a total of just two points of a possible 12.

Heidelberg, coached by Len McKendry, the man some rank as a Soccerroo candidate, took the brunt of the punishment handed out by the alleged also-rans of the 1990 competition.

On the opening Saturday the Bergers fell to a Ringwood City side most regarded as easy-beats for the season, and to add insult to injury McKendry's team suffered crucial injuries to key player and former Soccerroo champion, Jeff Oliver.

Oliver fell heavily in the opening minutes of the game and is now likely to be sidelined for four weeks with a

torn muscle at the base of his spine.

Two days later Heidelberg fronted up against Greek rival Northcote City and this time fared little better.

Quiet achiever Northcote, coached by former Aston Villa coach Roy MacLaren, trounced Heidelberg 3-1 with goals from recruits Neil Mills (Rochdale) and Manny Anezakos (South Melbourne) as well as Peter Cocker.

The injury reports were just as bad — key midfielder Alan Scott went off with injury in that game.

Melbourne JUST, relegated along with Heidelberg from the NSL last season, managed just a point from the opening rounds thanks to a lucky 2-2 draw with Frankston Pines on the Saturday.

Sasha Becvinovski saved JUST in that game with a second half equaliser, but nothing could pull the former NSL club out of trouble on the Monday as it crashed 3-0 at

Green Gully.

Gully went ahead inside two minutes and didn't look back despite a fiery incident just three minutes later which resulted in the send-offs of Gully's Mark Wilson and Rade Barjaktaravic from JUST.

Brunswick Juventus could be facing yet another year on the QNSL outer after its opening rounds disaster.

Last year's State League runners-up could also only manage a point from its two games despite claims that it was robbed on a 2-2 Monday draw against fierce Italian rival, Fawkner.

Inspired by ex-Juventus midfielder David Klepac, Croydon rolled Juve 1-0 on opening day thanks to a 71st minute Andy Humble goal and two days later against Fawkner.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

ASW outlets in Melbourne

AFTER receiving a large number of requests from Melbourne soccer fans concerning their desire to be sure of obtaining AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY each week, we publish the following list of areas in Melbourne where ASW is on sale.

Remember, if your area is not on the list, or if your newsagent is running out of copies before you get a chance to grab your own copy, make sure you ask your newsagent to order a copy for you.

ASW is available at 12 different city outlets as well as at newsagents in the following areas:

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Bulleen, Bundoora, Burnley, Nth Burnley, Burwood, East Burwood, Camberwell, Nth Camberwell, Carlton, Nth Carlton, Carnegie, Caram, Nth Caulfield, Caulfield, Nth Caulfield, Chadstone, Chelsea, Cheltenham, Clayton, Nth Clayton, Clifton Hill, Coburg, Collingwood, Craigburn, Cranbourne, Croydon, Croydon Nth, Croydon, Chirnside, Sth Croydon,

Dallas, Dandenong, Nth Dandenong, Dandenong West, Darling Deepdene, Deer Park, Dens, Diamond Creek, Dingley, Doncaster, East Doncaster, Doveton, Eaglemont, Edithvale, Elsternwick, Eltham, Elwood, Endeavour Hills, Epping, Essendon,

Fairfield, Fawkner, Fernvale, Gully, Lower Fernvale, Gully, Upper Fernvale, Gully, Farns, Nth Farns, Fawkner, West Fawkner, Forest Hill, Frankston, Gardenvale, Glenferrie, Nth Glenferrie, Glenhurst, Glen Iris, Glenroy, Glen Waverley, Greensborough,

Hallam, Hampton, Hampton Park, Hastings, Hawthorn, Heathmont, Heidelberg, West Heidelberg, Highett, Holmsglen, Houghdale, Huntingdale, Hurstbridge, Ivanhoe, East Ivanhoe, North Ivanhoe,

Keilor, East Keilor, Kensington, Keon Park, Kew, East Kew, North Kew, Kewborough, Kibbyth, Kingsbury, Knobsfield, Konyong, Lalor, Langwarrin, Lilydale, Laverton, Macleod, Maidstone, Malvern, East Malvern, Maribyrnong, McKinnon, East Melbourne, Nth Melbourne, Sth Melbourne, West Melbourne, Merton, Mentone, Merlynston, Mid Park, Middle Park, Mitcham, Nth Mitcham, Montague, Mount Albert, Montmorency, Montrose, Murrumbidgee, West Murrumbidgee,

Ponds, Moorabbin, Mooroolbark, Mordialloc, Mornington, Mount Eliza, Mount Waverley, Murrumbidgee, Mulgrave,

Narre Warren, Newmarket, Newport, Niddrie, Noble Park, Northcote, Nunawading,

Oakleigh, East Oakleigh, Nth Oakleigh, Ormond, East Ormond,

Pakenham, Parkdale, West Parkville, Pascoe Vale, Plenty, Port Melbourne, Prahran, Preston, East Preston, West Preston,

Regent, Reservoir, East Reservoir, Richmond, Ringwood, Ripponlea, Rosbud, Rosanna, East Rosanna, Rowville, Rye,

St Albans, St Kilda, Scoresby, Sandringham, Seaford, Seddon, Somerville, Sorrento, Sth Morang, South Yarra, Spotswood, Springvale, Sth Springvale, Sunbury, Sunshine, Nth Sunshine, Surrey Hills, Sunda,

Tally Ho, Templestowe, Lower Templestowe, Thomastown, Thornbury, Tourak, Tottenham, Tullamarine, Gladstone Park, Vermont, Wantirna, Nth Wantirna, East Doncaster, Watsonia, Werribee, Westall, Wheelers Hill, Williamstown, Nth Williamstown, Windsor, Yarraville,

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PART 1

GREG BLAKE REVIEWS THE RECORDS OF TWO MARVELLOUS NSL TEAMS

SUPER-team Sydney City was the best NSL side of all time. According to the experts the Sydney City team which took off three successive titles in 1980, 1981 and 1982 is still the best club team in NSL history.

Marconi, they say, isn't quite there yet, despite Marconi's claims in what is shaping as a record-equalling third successive championship season at Fairfield.

The current Marconi dynasty could well surpass Sydney City in the years to come.

As a club Marconi's strengths already eclipse anything the rest of the QNSL has to offer.

On the field Marconi boasts facilities and support far in advance of anything Sydney City could even aspire to.

And yet that factor in itself suggests that Eddie Thomson's virtually unbeatable Sydney City team of that era achieved success against enormous odds.

The now-defunct Sydney City dominated the NSL scene at the turn of the decade.

It was a case of Sydney City first and who next.

As current Marconi champion Robbie Wheatley reflected — they were awesome.

Wheatley, a youngster with struggling Blacktown back when City ruled the league, says sides were in awe of Sydney City every time they took the field against them.

"They had everything they were skilled very aggressive and they had enormous depth."

You really worried about playing against them.

These days the young league stars talk in the same glowing terms about the very team Wheatley has helped to the top of the league.

Marconi supporters particularly will argue that Sydney City of that era was rough, indeed too rough and physical to be remembered in the same class as the current Marconi outfit. There is no doubt that Marconi of 1990 shades City in its cultured style of football.

But no skill at City's surely not.

Aggressive

Certainly City had some of the toughest competitors to ever play in the NSL.

There were few less backward in coming for warts than Gerry

Gomez. Murray Barnes, Steve O'Connor, the great John Kosmina or Tony Pezzano.

But there was nothing brutal about the way they played the game.

But even Kosmina and Thomson agree that intimidation was one of City's most lethal weapons.

Lots of teams were frightened of us and in the end perhaps they gave us too much respect," says Thomson.

Thomson recalls with apparent relish the ways in which his all-conquering side would virtually out-psyche opponents.

We used tactics like ignoring opposing players before the game," he explains.

"Sometimes, if there was a day when there was no wind or no sun, we would win the toss and give the kick-off to the other team."

Then our lads would shout, clap hands and encroach on the centre circle trying to upset the team on kicking off.

There is a fine line between being competitive and dirty or unfair.

"I've got good team fighting for a championship plays the game the way we did."

"On more than one occasion teams tried to upset us by trying to kick us off the park, rather than the other way around."

But we scored more goals and conceded less than any other team during that period, so we cannot have been too bad a side."

Former Sydney City star Kosmina echoes Thomson's sentiments.

"We had a desire to succeed unmatched, I believe, by anyone and other teams felt that on the park," he explained.

"There was a lot of gamesmanship involved and we were a fairly physical side."

But our aim was always to go out there and play them off the park."

Yes, we got involved in trouble at times but that was usually because teams would try to kick us off the park and we weren't about to let them do that."

"You must remember that teams greeted themselves on how they performed against us — if they got a draw it was as if they'd won the championship."

We were relentless if we were winning 3-0 comfortably we'd try to go on to make it 5-0 or 6-0.

There was an invincible myth about Sydney City — we won more on ability than myth but the myth enhanced our



John Kosmina

advantage over other teams.

Other names to grace the NSL playing fields in Sydney City strips during that era bear out Thomson's summation.

To suggest there was a lack of ability in names like Joe Watson, Alex Robertson, Ian Soumess, Kevin Mullen, Kossie, Hilton Silva, John Stephenson, Joe Mullen, Barnes, Kenny Boden, Todd Clarke, Willy Murray, Paul Kay, Jimmy Cant or Terry Smith, to name a few, would be doing City the greatest of injustices.

Star-studded

The similarities between City and Marconi are unmistakable.

Both are recognised as the outstanding team of the era, both had the depth other clubs envy, neither stupidly squandered money on the transfer market, preferring the selective purchasing of one or two top liners as circumstances dictated, and they are, after all, the only teams to achieve back-to-back NSL titles.

In the USA it's now called a "threepeat" season. Three successive championships are possibly the toughest test of all.

Sydney City did it — Marconi, on the strength of recent wins over Melbourne Croatia, Adelaide Hellas, Blacktown and Wollongong, is well on target to do the same.

In senior football codes around Australia the three wins in succession is a virtual impossible dream.

In rugby league the last side to achieve three on end was St George's between 1964 and 1966,

at the end of the Saints' golden era which saw them win a world record 11 titles in a row.

In VFL, the last club to achieve the same was the Melbourne Demons between 1985 and 1987.

Sydney City is, in fact, the last senior team in the country to do "the impossible".

If Marconi could even equal that mark this season it would deserve its ranking as one of the best-ever.

Current Marconi boss Bert Mariani played against those supposedly awesome City sides and believes there is a comparison to be made.

"Comparisons should be done by people outside the two clubs," Mariani told ASW.

Whether one is better or worse is a matter of personal opinion.

"Both squads are very, very good and both clubs are the teams of the 80s in their own era."

"Obviously I prefer Marconi, particularly in terms of the style of football, but it depends on what people are looking at."

Mariani conceded that the current Marconi team mightn't be in Sydney City's class — at least not yet.

"But I feel they haven't seen the best of us just yet," is Mariani's ominous warning to the rest of the QNSL.

The Marconi boss dismisses suggestions that today's competition is easier to win.

Former Soccerroo and Sydney City star John Kosmina believes otherwise.

"I think it (the league) is easier to win now for sure," said ABC TV's outspoken commentator.

Mariani disagreed that NSL standards had dropped.

"There were other teams in that league too that you could always count on beating," he told me.

As for the argument that the final five is easier to win, well, even though I believe in the first-past-the-post system, there is still the problem of motivating players over three successive seasons.

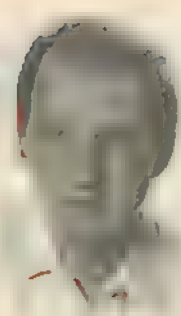
Finals and first-past-the-post are two different competitions.

"The top five is certainly different in that under the old system every game was a crucial one."

"With finals, that isn't always the case."

Sydney City's effort in winning three first-past-the-post titles is certainly an amazing record."

Melita Eagles — new NSL power



IN a season which has produced its fair share of frustrations and disappointment, one of the most pleasing aspects has been the emergence of what may well become a new power on the Australian club scene.

When the ambitious Melita Eagles finally reclaimed its position amongst the elite by running away with the NSW title last year, club officials vowed that, this time, nothing will keep them from retaining their new status.

A brief flirtation with NSL football back in 1984 ended disastrously for them in one of the biggest injustices in National League history when this proud club had relegation forced upon it even though it finished a huge nine points ahead of bottom placed Wollongong City.

The Wolves were saved that year by vir-

gins saw them tumble to second last position and instant relegation.

Those shameful events still stick in the craw of Melita officials and their loyal band of fanatical supporters.

The biggest tragedy was that, had they been allowed to survive that first season in top company, there's little doubt that the Eagles would by now have developed into one of the league's most influential outfits.

Ever since then winning back their rightful place in top company became almost an obsession but it took five long seasons before the holy grail was finally

BY FRANK SCICLUNA



Melita coach Raul Blanco — his patience has been rewarded as the team is firing on all cylinders and can beat any QNSL side on a given day.

Led by a shrewd and industrious group of people who virtually dedicated all their spare time to their be-

loved Eagles, this club with limited resources and a comparatively small Maltese com-

munity to call upon for support, became a role model for other ambitious outfits to follow.

Without having the luxury of a money-spinning licensed club

for financial assistance, Melita has almost miraculously created a marvellous stadium in South Granville with a covered grandstand, floodlights, parking area and facilities every bit as good as most in the league.

They have become the envy of many larger and far longer established so-called giants, but it was no easy task.

As their much respected president Sam Vella confessed recently: "We sometimes wonder ourselves how we managed to get this far but believe me, it took sheer hard work and a fair measure of resourcefulness and determination to achieve what we have."

The Maltese race seems to have this in-built ingenuity of making a dollar stretch to its limit.

"Maybe it's a simple matter of necessity but whatever it is, we have done all we can within our merge means and unlike many others, without going into heavy debt."

Together with the rest of his community, Vella is justly proud of

the club's achievements on the field so far this season — and so he should be.

Even more important than comfortably securing their prime objective of National League survival, the high-flying Eagles have also earned the respect of everyone who watched them in action with their attractive style of modern football.

Reward

Despite having to go through a frustrating start to the season when they were understandably struggling to find their feet, coach Raul Blanco was never once tempted to sacrifice his belief in playing crowd-pleasing soccer in a pragmatic compromise for results and in the end his policy paid off.

Within a matter of 10 heady days recently, Melita produced two spectacular victories over the classy Adelaide City and back-to-back champions Marconi, stunning all the so-called experts and provided solid evidence that the Eagles has finally landed.

The fledgling NSL newcomer has well and truly come of age.

Enthusiastic supporters, perhaps slightly intoxicated by the exhilaration of these results, are even contemplating the possibility of making the Top Five play-offs but Blanco dismisses these hopes as merely wishful thinking.

"With only a handful of games remaining it will almost need a miracle, but the club has every reason to be pleased with its achievements," he said.

"We have now shown that Melita can compete on an equal footing with anyone."

"A solid foundation has been laid and it's now a matter of going on with the job."

Blanco may well be right in settling for a comfortable mid-table position as consolidation must have always been the realistic name of the game this year, but you can rest assured that the progressive Eagles will not be forever satisfied with such modest aims.

This is a highly ambitious club and for one will not be at all surprised to see it strongly challenging for top honours very much sooner than most people think

EDITOR

There is a tendency in all organisations to point to the present point in time and say "this is the watershed," as if in the past and in the future the same point has not been or will not be made.

However, apart from various other staffing and organisational problems, soccer does face an exceptional challenge at present, in that it will be a matter of whether the main or worthwhile recommendations of the Dr Graham Bradley Report will be implemented or not.

It is easy to point to the vast improvements made in rugby league and cricket following the implementation of ideas laid down by outside consultants in the former case, and by Packer organisation in the latter.

In either situation, it is fair to say that sport-orientated administrators and former players were an integral part of the scheme and put the improvements into place and that they carried on from there.

For soccer, with its entrenched weaknesses, it is a matter firstly of making the recommendations of the Bradley Report available for public discussion.

Not to do so would leave an obvious accusation that the administration of Australian soccer was putting the whitewash brush over the future of the game.

The next point concerns the election of chairman of the Australian Soccer Federation at its annual meeting on March 31.

The incumbent Ian Brusasco has had widespread soccer experience, with a business background as well as having had a long career in local government as an Alderman of the huge Brisbane City council.

Challenger John Constantine is also an experienced soccer administrator, a solicitor and known as well for his continuing work for Greek Cypriot causes.

The person who carries on with or takes up the reins should be one who fearlessly is prepared to institute the main points of the Bradley Report, along with his fellow commissioners.

It will be no time for messy mouths — it will be a time for well considered action.

There is no area of the senior game which is meeting the required standard of operation. Soccer has to begin catching up with the leading sports as well as those who have gone ahead to become part of the second group in the Australian ratings.

Next, simple arithmetic of ASF finances would make it extremely difficult to appoint other than an Australian national coach.

The ASF was \$1 million behind a short time ago. The present administration can point to an improvement to \$600,000 outstanding, possibly entirely pools money due to the states rather than external debt.

With certain help from former chairman Sir Arthur George as well as the Victorian Health Promotion Fund, the corner has been well and truly turned.

So it will be soon up to the ASF to decide on its new national coach to replace Frank Arok, with Eddie Thomson and Berti Mariani both having the high standings.

If Thomson is chosen, then the National Coaching Director post is to be filled.

There already have been some suggestions, but ability and dedication are vital to the success of Australia's youth policy.

There has been a deal of heat and not much light over the Australian coach to become the national assistant, with presumably other youth responsibilities as well.

As ASW understands it, at this stage ex-Liverpool star Craig Johnston has put up a promotional proposal rather than a direct coaching proposition.

He did not join the Socceroos as a player, but why should not his talents — probably far greater than any available in Australia today — be investigated in a sensible, sportmanlike and businesslike fashion now that he has become available?

Returning to the organisational side, the ASF, NSL and Bradley have to put stability into the NSL if it is to achieve the success it has been chasing since 1977.

Soccer administration is having its problems. The Victorian Federation has been forced by its rules to conduct an 18-club competition.

In NSW a communication difficulty has left the Federation with a two-division competition that many state clubs do not regard as being viable.

Here's hoping that there are better things around the corner — on all fronts.



Melita Eagles goalkeeper Alex McPherson

tie of a quant ruling, existing at the time, which prevented any team outside of Sydney going down.

Although Melita were challenging strongly for a Top Four spot with six weeks remaining, a horrendous run of in-

reached

Now that they're back, nothing on earth is going to shift them.

Dedication

That frustrating spell in State League did not go completely to waste however.



Melita Eagles president Sam Vella (centre) and two of the club's brightest stars — Greg Brown (left) and Washington Gonzalez.

The criteria for success in Australia

BY MIKE JOHNSON

THE Marconi versus Melita thriller at Marconi Stadium two weeks ago highlighted much that is good in Quilt National League soccer.

- On the good side was:
- ★ Tremendous on-field competitiveness
 - ★ Good soccer
 - ★ Great crowd atmosphere
 - ★ Warm, comfortable climate conditions
 - ★ Reasonable spectator facilities
 - ★ Good playing surface
 - ★ Good lights
 - ★ Excellent, profitable on-ground social club
 - ★ Good press facilities

The above criteria would guarantee success for any soccer club in Australia.

What we need are more clubs that can reproduce those criteria.

Apia in Sydney provide many of the above criteria but they are let down in some crucial areas.

- Their floodlights are not bright enough for match conditions
- The Apia Social Club is distanced from the Lambert Park ground and apparently struggles to trade profitably
- Their potential crowd seems to be diminishing

It can be readily seen that a profitable social club and a good crowd base are the two main elements for a successful soccer club.

Blacktown City has a well-run social club, which has sustained the soccer club for years, but without a better crowd base money remains tight.

Sydney Olympic has the opposite — a good crowd base, but lacks any social club support.

Sydney Croatia has a deal of what Marconi has, except the same stability and competence in management, and the fact that it is a tenant of the King Tomislav Club whereas Marconi is the outright owner.

Melita Eagles, like Marconi, is a well-run outfit.

With its small crowd base, it has to be well-run, just as its sister club, Sunshine George Cross, in Melbourne.

These are the best times that Melita has encountered right throughout its existence.

It has an experienced, effective long-serving coach in charge of an experienced team, plus an experienced long-serving management executive.

Minuses

Ironically, most of the minuses I saw in the Marconi-Melita game involved Melita.

There was Marshall Soper, who put such a lot of endeavour into this game, grabbing pushing, shoving and generally manhandling opponents which, were it not Marconi, might have produced very nasty repercussions.

The excellent small

stocky midfielder Hugo Gimenez was at the Marconi players all night, elbowing and kicking, for which he got a yellow card and with another referee might have got his marching orders.

Yet when he got one back he was virtually on the ground, lay still and then got up.

It was pathetic and would have brought him a second yellow card in the NSW State League.

This performance was repeated some time later by another Melita player.

It is this type of thing that gives soccer such a bad name throughout Australia, where people still look for manliness in their sportsmen.

It is another of the ills that afflicts soccer world-wide along with the continued professional fouls, the kicking and throwing the ball away at free kicks, the playing for time by running into the corners and other anti-soccer plays.

It is no wonder that FIFA is terribly concerned, and is coming down on these offences.

NSW State League administrators are supporting FIFA in their crackdown, by instructing referees to give yellow cards for such offences.

Carded

Indeed, one of my players in a game recently was carded for seeking a penalty for a fall in the penalty area.

However, the Quilt National League administration does not appear to be instructing its referees on these things, as far as my observations go.

In National League games we see too much cynical violence on opponents, players pretending to be hurt, others wasting time and numerous professional fouls, all detracting from the spirit of the game and reducing it as a spectacle.

Soccer is one of mankind's greatest attributes.

Cheating, whether by deceit or the use of violence, is one of its baser traits and is awful to behold.

To confirm the impression of over-excitability (if one can use that euphemism) in the Melita ranks during its 1-0 win over Marconi there was a brief altercation at the end of the game.

A Melita official tried to push his club's goalkeeper, Alex McPherson, away from a potential fracas.

The goalkeeper then pushed his own official violently out of the way.

These incidents detract from the Melita performance, which it would see as probably its greatest-ever victory, did not diminish the pleasure and satisfaction gained by both Melita players and spectators for a glorious win.



South American players like, from left to right, Hugo Gimenez, Sergio Falce and Alfredo Barrios, not to mention classy Washington Gonzalez, have added a new dimension to Melita Eagles — HECTOR CARRASCO pic.

Excerpts from a letter from Australian Institute of Sport Employee, James Crocker

I have had five years of daily observation and daily involvement with the Institute soccer squad. The players are involved in 5x2 hourly sessions each week, each session being plus an hour for warm-up and stretching.

The 3x1 hour weight sessions extend to 90 minutes with flexibility work.

Each player would easily spend a further 10-15 hours in (often personal) technique training.

Work is done with physiology and biomechanics technicians to test and improve running style, flexibility, speed and endurance.

There are weekly sessions with the sports psychologist, nutritionist and other medical disciplines.

Then there are at least two matches per week, with the players travelling nine hours every second weekend.

Nobody except the players could appreciate the enormous pressure they are under from the minute they wake up.

There is little to be said about NSW not having a stranglehold on the AIS soccer intake. For the record there are six players from the State of NSW at the AIS.

I have watched Ron Smith run the AIS programme since 1986.

I have never heard a bad word said of Ron by past or present players of the AIS. The day to day problems of "raising" 18 teenagers are seemingly endless.

The players come here as kids and leave as men.

I know it is nothing for Smith to work 12-14 hours a day.

Also, while Gary Cole was at the AIS the players idolised him, and I hope he is replaced by someone who relates and influences players as he did.

— JAMES CROCKER, 19 GOULBURN ST, MACQUARIE ACT 2614.

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skill and more competitive than the Brazilian (I just wish they did not kick opponents so much).

Washington Gonzalez has been one of the best defenders ever to leave Uruguay.

He in his own way gives me as much pleasure as did St George's Dez Marton, now assistant coach at St George's and before him Roberto Vieri at Marconi.

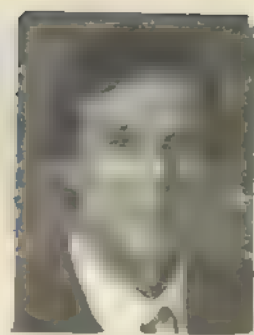
Marton, brought out by Frank Arak, one of the many Arok contributions to Australian soccer — is the best class striker I have seen in this country.

Australian soccer is still on the move, always has been, no matter what the pessimists say and despite maladministration.

Goals

In a Second Division State League game last Sunday, Gladsville versus Southern Districts, were two great goals.

One was from a corner



met by Gledson's well-timed back header and a crisp volley slammed in past the post.

Southern Districts replied with a striker's brilliant solo run under pressure from 40 metres out, then a shot from inside the box, superbly struck and placed inside the far post.

Such goals would win mention on England's 'Match of the Day'. You never used to see them in NSW Federation Second Division foot-ball games.

And once more Marconi Stadium has provided the nearest approach one can get in Australia at this time to top European club soccer and atmosphere, even to the queues for refreshments and traffic hold-ups at the end of the game.

NSW coaches on the move

FROM VINCE BALZAN

NATIONAL Director of Coaching Eddie Thomson conducted the first session of the year for the NSW Coaches' Federation.

The night kicked off on the park with Thomson doing a coaching practice, followed afterwards by a discussion session and refreshments indoors.

The coaching section was "midfielders supporting in attack."

Thomson started by working on the twin strikers checking off the defenders to receive the ball and creating space behind.

He then worked on the midfielders supporting wide with overlapping runs.

As usual he was his professional self, the players responded well and the practice flowed smoothly.

He then showed the coaches some training exercises to teach the players early vision, support and decision-making.

The night was highly appreciated by the members present, but unfortunately only half the expected number attended.

If the NSWCF is to continue to receive the support of the high calibre of coaches



EDDIE THOMSON

needed, then a full turnout of members is required.

Membership is open for any coach who wishes to improve his knowledge of the game.

The membership fee is \$30 and for this you will receive a one year's subscription of the "Coaching Overview," the bi-monthly publication, a season pass to State League fixtures, and admission to all seminars etc.

If you only wish to subscribe to the "Coaching Overview" this is available to you at an annual fee of \$15.50.

For an application form or further enquiries please contact Vince Balzan on 639 1003 (AH).

[Next week ASW will introduce a short, sharp column on NSW coaches and coaching by Barry Davis, editor of the outstanding "Coaching Overview" publication — Ed.]

[All correspondence is ended regarding Mike Johnson's ASW article of February 28, concerning coaches at the Australian Institute of Sport, apart from excerpts from a detailed letter from James Crocker of Canberra. There is no doubt that the Johnson article was based on reliable sources whilst on the other hand AIS head coach Ron Smith is highly regarded for his attention to the tasks involved in preparing the AIS soccer students — Ed.]

Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . .

ABBAS Saad is planning a surprise comeback to help Sydney Olympic's charge for the QNSL Top Five. Saad, originally ruled out for up to six weeks with an ankle injury, is earmarking his team's clash with Adelaide City to cap an abbreviated three-week recovery.

Just before his injury, Saad scored his 11th goal of the season. His return will be a big boost for semi-final-chasing Olympic.

IAN GRAY had a minor operation to remove floating bone from his knee last week but remains confident he will resume playing in a fortnight.

KIMON Tsiadodoros has publicly apologised to South Melbourne fans for letting the side down with his on-field behaviour.

The exciting, young South-African born striker was sent off for the second time this season when he received his marching orders for allegedly punching Blacktown City's Jason Bennett in an off the ball incident.

Tsiadodoros said he was making a big effort to curb his temper, but that he just lost control.

He may cop a hefty fine from the club for his action.

MANFRED SCHAEFER is keeping his fingers crossed that talented young midfielder Brian Ellem may yet be able to front up for the last two games

of the regular season and is toying with the idea of converting Darren Stewart into a striker to fill in for top goal scorer Rod Brown.

RUMOURS that the CSS, the marketing arm of the National Soccer League, has been discarded, have been denied by the NSL which says that CSS has been contracted until the end of the season.

RICHARD Lorenc is off to Italy this week for a preparation course organised by FIFA for referees who will officiate at the World Cup finals.

The course is being held near Pisa and will last two days.

FIFA will name the referees for the first round matches on June 1.

Lorenc, Australia's representative in the finals, is guaranteed at least one match as a linesman.

FIJI is now being tipped as the venue for the under 20 World Cup Oceania qualifiers in which Australia, New Zealand and the home nation will participate after Papua New Guinea's withdrawal as host country.

If this is the case, the first two placed teams in that tournament would have to travel to Israel for a three-team play-off for a berth in the finals in Portugal in 1991.

Australia will host the 1993 series.

DUSAN PURAC, the Sydney-based coach whose Brazilian-inspired coaching camps have earned worldwide praise, has been offered the post of Fijian national coach.

TONY VRZINA, the Sydney Croatia coach lured from Melbourne two and a half months ago, started work as a full-time director of coaching for the club last week. He has also been offered a new contract as first team coach for next season.

ST GEORGE signed Argentine striker Osvaldo El Ali from Second Division club Independiente de San Pedro before the QNSL transfer deadline last Friday. El Ali appeared for Marconi in 1986, scoring two goals in 16 first team games.

ADELAIDE HELLAS forked out \$26,000 last Friday to sign the Blacktown City pair of Kurt Reynolds and Lee

Sterrey. Hellas beat the transfer deadline by only half an hour. Blacktown's decision to part with the former Young Socceroo captain is a big surprise and seems to indicate the club no longer believes it can escape relegation. Sterrey has not played a game in the Demons' first team this season.

PRESTON is waiting to hear from their local Council as to whether they can continue playing at Connor Reserve. Hostility by local residents is hampering the club's promotions at home games as they are not allowed to admit more than 3,800 spectators and cannot kick off later than 6pm. Preston may have to play their remaining home games at Olympic Park.

SYDNEY Olympic fullback Steve Georgakis has become the first soccer player in Australia to be suspended for not wearing shin pads.

Georgakis was reported for not wearing shin pads in the QNSL game against South Melbourne two weeks ago.

He breeched the rules again in the game against Sydney Croatia the following weekend.

NSL general manager Peter Russell said that any QNSL player who took his shin pads off during a match and didn't replace them would be reported.

THIS year's National Soccer League awards will be held in Adelaide for the first time.

The glittering ceremony will be staged on May 26 at the Adelaide Hyatt.

THE ABC has denied reports that the QNSL is not pleased with its decision to switch the 'Big Match' programme from Sunday afternoons to Monday nights.

An ABC spokesman claimed QNSL officials are 'delighted' with the change.

MELBOURN Croatia won't be bringing Vlado Vanis out to fill a visa player vacancy which no longer exists.

The club was hoping that Branko Milosevic would by now have been granted permanent residency, but his application has still not been approved after eight months.

ROD BROWN will miss the rest of the QNSL season with a knee injury.

He has been told by

a specialist he has a damaged cartilage which will require arthroscopic surgery.

Crack marksman Brown has been plagued by injuries for the past four seasons.

Despite the problems, Brown has scored 10 goals this season and was on the verge of regaining Socceroo selection.

ADELAIDE Hellas has carried its player search overseas in a bid to boost its QNSL stocks. Negotiations broke down in a bid to lure former Rangers star Ian Ferguson here from Scottish club Hearts. And an attempt to bring a 'mystery' Yugoslav player also seems to have faltered.

ADELAIDE City Soccer Club expects to build new clubrooms on land adjacent to Hindmarsh Stadium. City recently sold their clubrooms at Olympic Sports Field to Athletics SA and surrendered their lease to the local council.



SBS-TV's trio of, from left to right, Les Murray, Andrew Paschalides and John Warren now presenting weekly World Soccer, Viva World Cup and Captain Socceroo as tasty appetisers before the station's magnificent live coverage of Italia '90 in June and July.

Rinos joins Canterbury

BY MARIO ETCHART

MICHAEL Rinos, one of the best Argentine strikers ever to settle in Australia, has been appointed coach of Canterbury Marrickville Olympic's under 14 and under 17 sides as well as first and second team goalkeeping trainer.

Rinos began his career playing for Argentine side Dock Sud in 1950. From 1954 until 1957 he played for Banfield before appearing in the colours of Colon de Santa Fe until 1962.

In 1963 he joined River Plate of Mar del Plata and ended his Argentine playing days with Olimpia.

He arrived in Australia in 1964 and signed with Sydney Croatia and Canterbury. In

1965 he scored Canterbury's only goal in their 1-0 win over Corinthians in the Second Division grand final.

In 1968, Rinos was transferred to Marconi and helped them win promotion to the Sydney First Division in 1969, playing alongside Les Schenflug, Johnny Gracometti, Ray Richards and fellow Argentine Roberto Muiña.

Rinos became involved with the game again when Canterbury offered him their junior coaching position and he also took the Argentine team to the final of the SBS-TV Multicultural Australian Soccer Cup this year.

Michael Rinos' knowledge and experience will be a great asset to the club at Canterbury.



Michael Rinos (left) in his Sydney Croatia days with Roberto Muiña.

O'CONNOR FOR AIS JOB

FORMER Socceroo stalwart Steve O'Connor has been appointed assistant coach at the Australian Institute of Sport.

O'Connor takes the place of Gary Cole and will take up his new post under head coach Ron Smith as

soon as he is released by his current employer, the Education Department.

O'Connor won the job from several applicants, including John Gaudner, the former Sunshine coach, Queensland's Alan Niven and fellow ex-Socceroo Ken Murphy.

Spirited Croydon downs Northcote

BY MARC BREKAU

VSF



EARLY League leaders Northcote lost 2-0 at John Cain Reserve to a spirited Croydon side on Saturday.

Their cause was not helped when sweeper Paul Harris limped off after 10 minutes. Croydon opened the scoring with Billy Brimmer, after 16 minutes, when he latched onto a rebound after Andy Humble had hit the post.

The match appeared scrappy in play during the first half, with Northcote doing the majority of the defending.

Humble was again involved in Croydon's second goal after 69 minutes, his break and resulting shot rebounding off keeper Mark Turudica only to fall into the path of David Klepac who scored with ease.

Croydon lost player-coach Ian Dobson with a groin injury, but the points were sealed before his loss was noticed by the Croydon side.

ALTONA GATE VADAN 3 BOX HILL 2

ALTONA GATE VADAN 3 BOX HILL 2

Altona opened the day's proceedings after 29 minutes when Gary McMullen scored from the penalty spot after an alleged hand ball offence by Box Hill. An equaliser came after only a few minutes, a Box Hill corner was half-cleared by the Altona Gate defence.

The ball was picked by Brenden Thomas who crossed to Greg McLeod to level the scoreline.

Altona made it 2-1 after half-time when a wind-assisted corner from the right by Zoran Rodorovski found the Box Hill net. Shortly afterwards, some intense pressure by the home side led to a freekick some 27 years from the Box Hill goal-mouth.

McMullen struck the ball hard to score and seal the match for Altona. Box Hill managed a second in the last 10 minutes when Steve McIntyre showed good control to volley in the ball after Paddy Cooper had set him up.

THOMASTOWN 2 MELB CITY JUST 1

Player-coach Ken Murphy continued to inspire his side as they collected their third straight win for the season. Melbourne began the game attacking and scored early through 17-year-old Sasha Becvinovski after 10 minutes.

Thomastown quickly equalised through Russell Athersych, who glanced in a corner in the 13th minute.

Despite some good play by both sides, Thomastown had to wait until the 73rd minute before securing the points. Substitute Gerry McAleer made it 2-1 with a low hard shot.

These two clubs had never met before in State League competition, and the victory would have been a sweet one for coach Murphy against the club he played for last year.

FRANKSTON PINES 1 BRUNSWICK UTD JUVE 3

Brunswick strung together a series of good moves as they strove to improve their form. Frankston started out well with Gillard and Keenan both finding themselves in good space.

But the pressure did not last and after 35 minutes a Shaun Lane pass found D'Amicis who opened Brunswick's account.

Juventus switched into top gear in the second half. Giaccherini made it 2-0 after the break and Napoli rounded off the match with a third after 70 minutes.

Coach Roberto Vieri said of his team's performance: "It was only a matter of time before we showed what we are capable of."

FAWKNER 0 RINGWOOD CITY 1

Ringwood City overcame a good performance by Fawknor in a match of few scoring chances. Jamie Pensen pulled a good save out of goalkeeper Turudica in the final stages of the



KENNY MURPHY — going great guns as player-coach of Thomastown.

first half as Ringwood strove forward looking for the lead.

Ringwood's goal came after 65 minutes. A poor clearance by the Fawknor defence fell to Steve Brown, who shielded the ball well and found McQuire.

He showed great individual skill in beating his marker and the goalkeeper to secure the points for his side.

MOOROOLBARK 0 HEIDELBERG 2

Paul Lewis was again hero and villain for Heidelberg in this match.

After 20 minutes Heidelberg's Willie Raynes provided a good cross from the left for Lewis, who scored when he found the gap in a crowded penalty area.



SPRING GULLY JUST 2 MORWELL FALCONS 1

We started the game fast, scored early and then rested on our laurels. That cost us two goals and the match," said Falcons coach Boh McLachlan.

Morwell scored within five minutes when Jimmy Nelson headed in a Doyle cross from the left. Morwell then slipped into relaxation mode and this paid against them in the latter stages of the game.

Ajax scored through Tommy Daley, who collected a loose ball outside the Morwell penalty area, and Ken Smart who headed in a Farquarson cross.

Morwell appeared more composed in the second half and could have levelled the score but for the crossbar. Dick and Cassar both being denied from scoring.

However, the result was a good indication of the home side's performance.

ST ALBANS 2 CAULFIELD CITY 0

A hard-fought tie played against the wind at Fox Street reserve in which Caulfield always looked the better side and should have scored when Pappas found himself with only the keeper to beat after Paul Donnelly had put him clear.

Moments later Tsiakos hit the side netting.

St Albans had their share of opportunities, but looked light in the forward line and rarely capitalised on their attack.

Morovic missed from close range in the second half and Pondeljak fired over the bar after some good ball work.

Caulfield were inspired by some excellent

work from Kalogeros and Donnelly, however, a point shared is a just result from this game.

Next week's matches:

ROUND FOUR —

SAT. MARCH 24:

Albion vs Heidelberg

Utd, Altona Gate vs

Caulfield City, Box Hill

vs Bulleen, St Albans vs

Croydon City

Mooroobark vs Fawknor,

Northcote City vs

Frankston Pines, Ring-

wood City vs Green

Gully, Melb City JUST

vs Brunswick Utd Juve.,

Thomastown vs Mor-

well Falcons

ROUND FIVE —

SUN. MARCH 25:

Caulfield City vs

Albion, Bulleen vs

Altona Gate, Box Hill

vs Thomastown, Bruns-

wick Utd Juve., vs Green

Gully, Morwell Falcons

vs Melb. City JUST,

Heidelberg Utd vs St

Albans, Croydon City

vs Mooroobark, Fawknor

vs Northcote City,

Frankston Pines vs

Ringwood City

Table

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croydon	1	0	4	6	4	3
Thomastown	3	0	6	3	5	6
Albion	1	0	4	5	5	3
Green Gully	2	0	3	4	4	4
St Albans	2	0	5	2	4	4
Northcote	1	0	5	3	4	2
Bulleen	1	0	5	3	4	2
Ringwood	1	0	5	3	4	2
Blaxett	1	0	4	3	4	2
Fawknor	1	0	4	3	4	2
Morwell	0	2	3	3	2	3
Heidelberg	2	5	6	2	2	6
Altona Gate	2	4	6	2	2	6
Mooroobark	2	4	6	2	2	6
Caulfield	1	2	4	1	1	4
Melbourne JUST	1	2	3	1	1	4
Frankston Pines	0	2	2	1	1	2
Box Hill	0	2	4	8	0	2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Roberto Vieri's team lead twice but dropped a point due to a controversial late equaliser.

Four minutes from time Juventus' Charlie Egan was equalised for a hand ball in his own area as Zdravko Lujic's freekick bounced into him off the Juve wall.

After consulting his linesman, referee Torben Sorenson awarded the spotkick and veteran Claudio Lucchesi converted to grab a share of the spoils for Fawknor.

Last year's champion, Morwell Falcons, had its share of problems as well as it went down 1-0 at home to Fawknor on opening day before coming back to defeat Frankston Pines 2-0 two days later.

If nothing else, the early State League shocks have added a spark of interest to a Victorian season which began in a shambles.



Juventus' Sean Lane in action against Apia in the club's NSL era. Juve have started dismally in the Victorian State League.

ROUND 2 RESULTS

Altona Gate (McMullen) Thomas town 2 (Cristaldo Mihos), Box Hill 0, Albion 2 (Samardzija, Douglas), Bulleen 2 (Livingstone, Incantapupo) St Albans 2 (Eres 2), Caulfield City 1 (Greenwood), Mooroobark 2 (Brogan, Hythe), Croydon City 1 (Klepac) Ringwood City 0, Fawknor 2 (Hannah, Lucchesi) Juventus 2 (Napoli, Patterson), Green Gully 3 (og, Daley, Pender) Melbourne JUST 0, Heidelberg 1 (Goutzioulis) Northcote 3 (Mills, Cocker, Anezakis), Morwell Falcons 2 (Byrne, Bingham) Frankston Pines 0.

Maccarone ready for Tasmanians

BY WALTER PLESS

FRANK Maccarone, Hobart Juventus's new coach, is not building up his hopes to unrealistic levels as the 1990 Caddbury State League season approaches.

He realises he faces an enormous task at Juventus if he is to unseat league champion White Eagles.

"I've been told White Eagles is a very good team, but I haven't seen them yet," Maccarone said. "Six goals against Croatia and Calles recently is impressive, however."

In contrast, Maccarone is struggling a bit to obtain quality players for his new club, which has been disappointing in most of its pre-season practice matches.

"We haven't got the team I dreamed of having, but maybe we'll get there," said Maccarone.

"I haven't had a full squad at pre-season training because some players have had other commitments, and we are looking for a couple of players, especially strikers."

"We're even searching overseas for good players, so we'll see what we can achieve this year."

Maccarone's teams normally play a 3-4-3 or 4-3-3 system, but, as any coach worth his salt knows, the system one uses depends upon the players at one's disposal.

"We're currently missing a right fullback, a half-winner in midfield, and we need a couple of good strikers," Maccarone said.

"We've got some good players and I may need to reorganise the system because it may have to be completely different to what they've been used to."

"We certainly do have to build up the team."

When I moved to Tasmania to establish a business, I didn't really want to coach this year, but Juventus asked me, so, with due consideration to my business commitments, I said I'd do what I can."

Maccarone has nothing to prove, but is a genuine and sincere character, and one who is sure to give it everything.

He arrived in Australia in 1960 and played for three years before turning his hand to coaching.

He took Canberra Juventus to numerous league and cup titles before taking over Inter Monaro in 1977, where he immediately won yet another ACT championship.

In 1979, he took Monaro to the NSW title then switched to Canberra Croatia, which remained unbeaten for two years with him at

the helm, before returning to Inter Monaro, which had qualified for the National League.

Maccarone's knowledge of Tasmanian soccer had been very limited prior to his arrival.

His Canberra Juventus side came to Hobart without him in the mid-70s for a friendly.

The team did have four Italian internationals, however, and produced an outstanding performance.

If his new club plays anything like that side, he can be well pleased.

COALSTARS VICTORIOUS

IPSWICH club Coalstars won their first major trophy in three years with a dramatic penalty shoot-out win over North Star in the XXXX pre-season cup final at Perry Park last weekend.

Coalstars, who last tasted success with Ampol Cup wins in 1986 and 87, downed the 1989 premiers 4-2 in the shoot-out after they had played a 2-2 90 minutes and a scoreless extra time.

North Star had countless opportunities to ensure the cup was in their keeping well before extra time was needed but uncharacteristic squandering of goalkeeping chances and defensive lapses gave Coalstars the sniff of victory they needed.

North Star scored first when Jim McDonagh — later to be named the player of the series — clipped a volley past young Stars goalkeeper Darren McGrath.

A mix-up in the North Star defence between keeper Noel Lord and fullback Phil Mulvey allowed Coalstars striker Michele Babic to pounce on a loose ball and level the account.

New North Star signing Nick Sealey found the net after Coalstars failed to clear a freekick and most expected North Star's experience to see them through.

But Coalstars substitute Bran van der Ryken had other ideas. He raced onto a Peter Vogler cross to hammer in an equaliser just seconds before referee Peter Hulme blew full-time.

The two teams battled through the time-on period with each having half-chances without really looking threatening.

Surprisingly, in the shoot-out it was experienced McDonagh and Ross Swan who missed their spotkicks to give Coalstars their victory.

— GREG RUSSELL



Alby Kidd in action for Adelaide Hellas in their recent 1-0 win against St George at Hindmarsh Stadium — JANUSZ KAMMA photo.

Tanzey's stiff challenge

BY GRAHAM COOKE

TEN years ago Chris Tanzey was coach of a championship-winning team — this season he's aiming to do it again.

"Probably not many people remember but when I first came to Canberra I took over Downer Olympic with a guy called Gerry Barlow and we won the league," he said.

But this promising start to a coaching career was not immediately followed up.

The next season Tanzey returned to the rank-and-file playing staff, then for a while concentrated on indoor soccer, eventually representing Australia at the code.

Now, after two seasons as assistant to Augusto Palacios and then Tom Sermanni at Canberra City, he is back in charge of his own club.

The task he faces is not easy — following Herbie Klemperer at Ampol Cup-winning Canberra City Concordia in the ACT First Division.

But Tanzey, who cut his teeth in the hot bed of English soccer as a professional at Liverpool, is thirsting for the challenge.

"I know it seems a strong thing to say, but there are similarities between what I knew at Liverpool and what we have here," he said.

Obviously we don't have their players — but the same driving principles are there.

"Concordia is an honest club, with honest people off the park who do a lot of work to ensure success."

And they are always thinking ahead, not just to next week but to next month, even next year. It's the only way to go."

"As for the players, they would have to be the easiest I have ever worked with."

Tanzey has collected a formidable coaching team around him, with former City partner Oscar Langone in charge of the youth team and long-serving club man Billy McDewitt running the reserves.

He has inherited most of last year's first team.

Newcomers include midfielder Lars Koch from Tasmania, the experienced Steve Holgate from Downer Olympic and Craig Weldon, who played under Tanzey in Canberra City's youth team in 1987, as well as goalkeeper Martyn Smith.

Still with the club is last season's ACT League Player of the Year, striker Gary Van Der Plaats.

Letter of the Week

I congratulate the ASF in their attempts to promote soccer by seeking out new directions for the Socceroos instead of sitting back and basking in the reflected glory of past successes.

Frank Arok has done a magnificent job for us and fully deserves all the praise that has been accorded him.

However, after more than 30 years associated with the game in this country, chiefly as an independent progressive thinker and critic, by far the weakest aspect of Australian soccer, namely its administration and promotion I believe the Socceroos need more than we accept as a coach within the meaning of the term, both here and overseas.

I believe the man chosen for the job should have the following qualifications.

• He should have played the game at the highest level and if he represented his country

in the national team then that is a bonus.

• He must speak good English and possess the required coaching certificates and should be able to call on the National Director of Coaching and his staff for assistance in preparing the team.

• Must be young enough to have an easy rapport with his players but mature enough to have earned their respect.

• If the chosen person is a good public speaker or TV performer he could do great things in promoting the code in general and attracting sponsors to support the Socceroos. As I said earlier, the man for the job at hand would be more than a coach so I would like to see the ASF drop the call for a coach and advertise for a national team MANAGER.

Harry Ealden
9A Sylvia Place,
Nollamara WA 6061

THE WA SCENE

BY RICHARD KENNEDY

PERTH Italia cruised into a second consecutive final appearance of the Pepsi Night Soccer competition following two solid victories during the four-team round robin finals playoff section.

With a remaining fixture versus Stirling Macedonia, their healthy goal difference makes it virtually impossible for them to surrender one of the top two qualifying final positions.

It's been a powerhouse performance by the defending champions, currently the only undefeated side in the tournament and who once played nearly 200 minutes before conceding their first goal.

They also received an unexpected bonus when it was announced by the Western Super Soccer League that the night series was to shift to their spacious home ground, Dorrien Gardens, from the small Lake Monger Velodrome.

The reason was that the WSSL were disappointed with the Perth City Council's refusal to lower the 33% rate on their cut for the gate takings.

After the preliminary rounds, Italia and Bayswater Inter headed the group A ladder, four points clear of their nearest competitors.

Macedonia took the group B honours in equally convincing fashion, ahead of Floreat Athena who were yet to look threatening, despite being undefeated.

Inter sweeper Rene de Koning was rewarded for his tireless and inspirational performance by winning the Chris Gogos/Golden Swan Supporters' Club Laureate & Best medal hon.

Athena eventually lost their unbeaten record when Italia recorded a stylish 3-0 triumph in the first game of the deciding play-off.

In the match, Athena's cause wasn't helped when Ross Greer gave away an eighth minute penalty after bringing down Roy Hogan. The Italia midfielder took the spot-kick himself, guiding it with ease past young Dave Drobnak.

It was 2-0 just seven minutes later when a deep left-side ball somehow evaded the attention of the Floreat defence, it dropped to the feet of an unmarked Garry Murray who gratefully slotted it home from 12 metres.

Italia clearly played the better game, particularly Hogan, Allan Potter, Dave Evans, Craig Naven and winger Gerry Christie.

Athena sweeper, Jeff Curran, who won't be going to Adelaide Hellas, played a superb skipper's role, but to no avail due to his ineffective

five strikers. In the 73rd minute Athena should have reduced the deficit, but keeper Chris Barbas pulled off a spectacular reflex save, falling backwards whilst blocking a point-blank diving header from Paul Farmer.

With this being the last of the few positive strikes Athena could produce, Italia capitalised by going further ahead two minutes into stoppage time with the goal of the game from Christie who went on a burning run, side-stepped defender Mick Cairns, and delightfully curled the ball inside the left hand upright from the 18-metre line.

In the evening's second game, Stirling Macedonia brushed off any threat Inter had intended with a 2-1 victory.

Bayswater's rising star, Walter Butti, opened the scoring after just seven minutes. But it only took Macedonia another 10 to grab the equaliser through Carl McDarby who thumped home a Ross McGinn corner.

Just when it appeared the game was heading for a draw after some excellent goalkeeping by man of the match Steve Martin, substitute Frank Bate finally scrambled the ball over the line five minutes from the end. Seconds later, Alan Hercher put the game beyond doubt with an unstoppable header.

In the next round, Italia made it two out of two and a berth in the final when they scored a convincing 4-1 result against Inter.

The hero was Christie who scored two goals, while Hogan and Murray converted the others.

The evening's second game saw a much closer contest, Athena finally revealed their true potential to beat a confident Macedonia 2-1.

Athena can now join Italia into the final if they down Inter, making it an impressive fourth consecutive final appearance for the club.

Ironically, former coach Ken Worden never won a night series trophy, but he has a strong chance to reverse the trend with his new club Italia Macedonia can halt Athena's run and enter the final if they beat Italia by at least two goals.

GROUP A FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	Pts
Italia	4	3	0	1	3	10
Bayswater	4	3	0	1	3	10
Crofta	4	2	0	2	8	6
Sorrento	4	1	0	3	8	3
Kalamitoti	4	0	0	4	2	0

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	Pts
Macedonia	4	3	0	1	2	9
Athena	4	1	3	0	5	8
Dalmatrac	4	1	2	1	7	5
Olympic	4	1	1	2	4	5
Kewaria	4	0	2	2	4	2

Current standings in the four-team play off with one round remaining

	P	W	D	L	F	Pts
Italia	2	2	0	0	7	6
Macedonia	2	1	0	1	3	3
Athena	2	1	0	1	3	3
Inter	2	0	2	0	6	0

Mal Bland gets post after unseemly delay

BY GREG RUSSELL

LONG-serving Brisbane coach Mal Bland has finally been re-appointed after one of the biggest shambles yet generated by the Queensland Soccer Federation management committee

What should have been an automatic appointment, finally was — but almost a month too late to allow Bland to properly do his job of selecting the most in-form players from the pre-season tournament.

Similarly, the delay in naming an Ipswich coach, which ultimately was given to former Lions NSL boss Gordon Arrowsmith, has given him an almost impossible task of establishing a rapport with his players.

Club delegates should demand answers from the management committee members at the next council meeting as their players have been the real losers from the wrangle.

In past seasons the Brisbane and Ipswich coaches have been appointed by invitation.

The system has worked well, with Bland gaining considerable credibility for his Brisbane teams. Similarly, Gary Wilkins, Brian Styles and John Roderick formulated Ipswich sides which not only caused their share of upsets but also generated enormous parochial interest in the intercity series.

The series proved an ideal opportunity for XXXX League players to press their claims for inclusion in Bruce Stowell's state teams.

The intercity series was extended last year to include Gold Coast who were a very competitive addition and won the competition on goal difference.

Stowell recommended the series be extended further this season, with the inclusion of Bundaberg who have long been a country soccer force in the Ampol Cup.

That's when the management committee came into play.

The intercity series was expanded, but amazingly to include Toowoomba — who at best can only base their side on Second Division club Willowburn and Third Division outfit St Albans.

The criteria for their inclusion can only be it was cheaper to travel two hours to Toowoomba than the four hours to Bundaberg.

Many then expected Bland to be named as the Brisbane coach considering he is the Brisbane Director of

Coaching

Gold Coast will be led by then director, Jim Selby while Toowoomba will be chosen by their new regional director (to be named soon).

The Ipswich coach was a little more difficult, but Brian Styles was a popular suggestion, considering he had coached at both major Ipswich clubs and his move to nearby Croana would ensure no one could target him for bias with regard to the selection make-up of his City side.

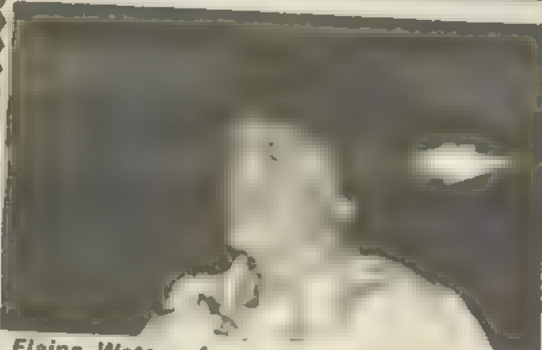
After a number of weeks of debate and deliberation during which

the official selection trials — the XXXX pre-season tournament — had got underway, it was decided the Queensland Soccer Coaches' Association would be asked to nominate three coaches to be considered for the intercity jobs.

The Association came back with the names of three of its office-bearers — Arrowsmith, Tony Lowrie and Graham Beehre.

It was at this stage that the media cottoned on to what was happening and suddenly Bland was appointed as Brisbane coach and Arrowsmith was put in charge of Ipswich with Mark Walker his assistant.

Executive Director out in Queensland



Elaine Watson from the QSF management committee helps out.

THE Queensland Soccer Federation has scrapped the position of Executive Director following the resignation of Dennis Murray after just 14 months at Perry Park.

Jim Gilbert will continue as Federation secretary while the promotion and marketing area of Murray's job should be covered by the part-time appointment of promotions officer, Pat McEneaney.

QSF president Wallace Dann denied Murray had been sacked, although rumours of his departure from soccer headquarters were rife more than 48 hours before an official announcement was made.

Murray gave an indication all had not been happy when he revealed to one reporter that there had been a "disagreement with the management committee over the direction of soccer in Queensland."

The QSF tries to promote the XXXX League all on its own instead of letting the clubs do it themselves, Murray said.

"You don't see the Australian football

league promoting the Bears or the NSW rugby league pushing the Broncos. They handle it much better themselves."

Murray came to the QSF after holding a similar position with the Australian Indoor Soccer Federation. He was selected by the then new committee, headed by Dann, to fill the vacancy left by Alan Vessey's move to the Australian Soccer Federation.

Outgoing president Ian Brusasco had earlier conducted interviews but was forced to stand down without filling the executive director position when Australian swimming executive director and former soccer player Craig McLatchy accepted, then declined just four days before he was to be introduced to the OSI annual general meeting.

Murray said he intended to take a holiday, then is likely to pursue his own sports consultancy business.

In the meantime, QSF management committee member Elaine Watson is working at soccer headquarters part-time to ensure an easy transition to the new set up.

— GREG RUSSELL

McROE'S US TRIP A BLAST

QNSL referee Tom McRoe gained a fascinating insight to soccer US-style during a recent business trip there. "High school and women's soccer are all the go there," said McRoe.

Indoor soccer, too, is quite big but the standard is not all that good and promotion of the game is almost non-existent.

One ref was the centre of controversy during McRoe's visit.

Handling a high school game in California he was spat on by a player. The whistler sought his own retribution by flooring the offender with a punch.

A crowd invasion followed.



Tony Vidmar scores for Adelaide City in their 4-1 QNSL win over Sunshine at Hindmarsh — JANUSZ KAMMA photo

Alan Clark surveys the Adelaide scene

SALISBURY's outstanding club chairman Jack Innes had decided to retire.

His position has been taken by Ray Topliss.

Innes has been a club stalwart for 20 years and has held every executive position with the club.

FORMER Socceroo Jim Muir will coach the SA under 15 side in this year's national titles.

Hellas' sweeper Zoran Maric and former Juventus striker Joe Serafini will take charge of the under 16s and under 14s respectively.

SCOTTISH import defender Martin Doak has asked to be released by Hellas. Doak, brought to SA from Morton in Scotland, has been out of Hellas' QNSL plans and has sought the move. "I've spoken with the club management and they say I'm free to go to any club that will take over my visa requirements," said strongman Doak, who earlier was chased by Victorian club Morwell Falcons.

DONALD Campbell has had his share of problems in his first stint of coaching with Croatia.

The former top referee took Croatia to the Ampol Cup crown but since has been

injury plagued. Teenage defender Doug Paterson broke his leg in the Ampol final and skipper Paul

Blair received a knee injury that required surgery.

Key striker Ante Ljubic also has been sidelined and Ampol Player of the Series Mladen Putasnee was on the outer with a back injury.

Hellas signing Mike Barnett was not injured but he is off on honeymoon and has not yet played for the senior side.

Fringe player Dinko Blazincic also has a broken toe.

FORMER Scotland goalkeeper Bobby Ferguson is to come out of retirement.

He will give special coach to young Croatia goalkeeper Peter Blazincic.

MODBURY officials have said they should swap their players.

The club had a dismal Ampol night series but has burnt in the opening League rounds.

"If I was a steward I'd demand a awab," said PR man Terry Thorp.

Peter Mullen has been a top performer since joining the club from Polonia.

PARA Hills is another side likely to make a concerted promotion push.

And it will have some seasoned performers to aid its bid.

Evergreens Robert Marwe, Martyn Crook, Harry Bell, Geoff Tomlinson and

Brian Butterworth will be an integral part of the Second Division title challenge.

HE would have to be the smallest man in the Foundation State League but little Neetarios Khronomos is walking tall with Hellas.

The buzzing midfielder has performed creditably in Hellas' promising opening and looks a real find for the future.

ENFIELD City is expecting a big year from two teenage strikers — John Francesca and Scott Adams.

Francesca has just returned from a starring role with the Australian High School team which toured England and the US.

BIRKALLA Eagles and Para Hills tasted West End Premier Cup success last week.

Birks beat Enfield City 2-0. Second Division Para produced the same scoreline to topple First Division Cumberland.

SECOND Division boom club Blackwood has confirmed its promotion intentions by signing former Bob Telfer Medal winner Glynn Whappington from Noarlunga.

He joins Ken Olsson, Bep De Vries, Ron McLeod, Charlie Lamont, Chris Leyland and former Kiwi World Cup man Glen

Dods as Hillsiders recruits.

SA soccer seems sure to prosper under a new, skilled management team.

Alex Cichanowski has returned as chairman of the SA Soccer Federation board and has accomplished Basil Searcella as vice-chairman.

Cichanowski is a Life Member of the board and brings a wealth of experience to the role.

Searcella, a former top goalkeeper in SA with Campbelltown, is recognised as a keen soccer and economic brain.

He has an economics degree and holds a key position with a leading State government body.

Searcella also was a player of note. He surely would have made the State team had not Socceroo Martyn Crook and Peter Marshall been playing day rivals.

With huge sponsorship from Foundation SA, and new backing o Home Fresh Bakeries and Seppelt Wines added to the continued support of Ampol, Coca Cola and West End, SA soccer seems on a solid financial foundation.

And work should start soon on the multi-million dollar facelift to Hindmarsh Stadium.

SA soccer looks in safe hands and is ready to boom.



Saso Becvinovski of Melbourne City JUST in action — ROY HAY photo.

YOUTH L SOUTH

Altona, Croatia in battle at the top

BY ROY HAY

ALTONA Gate retained league leadership in the Southern Division of the NYL with a 4-0 win over Geelong City at Paisley Park.

The first half saw City take the game to Altona Gate and Steve Radojevic beat keeper Mauro Raso only for the ball to be cleared off the line.

Charles Fitzpatrick's inswinging corner bounced on the goal line, but screwed back into play as two Geelong City players claimed the goal.

For Altona Gate, Robert Stojcević fired a shot wide of the City goal and Robert Trajkovski's driven cross eluded all his fellow forwards.

After a goalless first half, Trajkovski sent over a swinging cross which deceived City keeper Adam Oates and landed in the top corner.

Danny Stresnjak took on the defence and chipped the keeper for the second, while Australian youth player, Robert Stojcević was given lots of space to make it three.

Trajkovski finished off a combined move for the last goal.

Melbourne Croatia was shocked by a first-minute goal by Bill Kyriakoulis for East Richmond, who took advantage of a poor passback, but Croatia won comfortably in the end 4-1 at Burnley Oval.

Joe Bacak, who made his NSL debut last week, scored twice for Croatia. Mark Silke continued his scoring run and Hus Skenderovic made it four.

East Richmond missed a penalty and with it the chance to put pressure on the visitors.

After an early error, Steve Horvat had a good match for Croatia.

Croatia is now only a point behind Altona

Gate with two games in hand. Next week it meets third placed, Hellas White in the match of the round.

South Melbourne Hellas White annihilated Clifton Hill 13-1 at Middle Park.

It was 3-0 at the interval and Clifton Hill hit the woodwork twice and scored through Peter Parros, but Con Boutsianis took over top spot on the goalscoring table by adding four to his tally, while Damian Mori scored a hat-trick.

Andrew Freund and Michael Michaelakopoulos netted two each and the others came from Peter Nikolakopoulos and Peter Haloulos.

Preston Makedonia missed three penalty kicks in its 1-1 draw with North Geelong at Elcho Park.

Adrian Cervinski put North ahead with a goal from a very narrow angle, but Preston hit back and Nick Georgopoulos put his team on terms.

The match between Heidelberg United and Caulfield City at Olympic Village also finished in a 1-1 draw. Caulfield led through a Bill Sakas goal, but Con Komaris equalised for Heidelberg.

Sunshine George Cross's Mitchell Cattermole scored a hat-trick as George scraped home 3-2 against South Melbourne Hellas Blue at Skinner Reserve.

Tony Samaras put Hellas ahead from the spot after 26 minutes, but then came Cattermole's goals in 54, 64 and 74 minutes, before an own goal in the 76th minute put everything at hazard once again.

Results

North Geelong 1 (Cervinski) Preston 1 (Georgopoulos), Altona Gate 4 (Trajkovski 2, Stresnjak, Stojcević) Geelong City 0, East

Richmond 1 (Kyriakoulis) Melbourne Croatia 4 (Bacak 2, Silke, Skenderovic), SMH White 13 (Boutsianis 4, Mori 3, Freund 2, Michaelakopoulos 2, Nikolakopoulos 2, Haloulos) Clifton Hill 1 (Parros), Heidelberg 1 (Komaris) Caulfield 1 (Sakas), Sunshine 3 (Cattermole 3) SMH Blue 2 (Samaras, og) Melbourne JUST bye.

	P	W	D	L	A	Pts
Altona Gate	19	15	2	2	51	14
Melb Croatia	17	15	1	1	50	14
SMH White	20	13	3	4	50	18
Melb JUST	19	9	5	5	32	23
Sunshine	19	9	4	6	40	38
Preston Maki	18	8	4	6	34	20
Geelong City	18	8	2	10	34	36
North Geelong	18	6	2	10	34	18
Heidelberg	19	4	6	9	21	36
East Richmond	19	5	2	12	31	50
SMH Blue	18	4	2	12	25	52
Caulfield City	18	2	5	11	18	36
Clifton Hill	15	2	0	13	13	63

A fine comeback and a goal feast in the second half featuring hat-tricks by strikers George Sorras and Kris Trajanovski enabled the AIS to defeat Marconi 8-2 at Bruce Stadium on Saturday.

Marconi started the game determinedly and their efforts were soon rewarded when Vince Colaguri converted a fourth minute penalty.

In the 15th minute, Marconi stretched their lead when Messina powered a shot from long range into the back of the net.

The AIS began to pressure the Marconi defence and soon replied when Trajanovski controlled a long pass and dribbled around the keeper to score in the 18th minute.

The equaliser came in the 22nd minute, when a Chris Block free kick was deflected by Trajanovski to Sorras who scored from an acute angle.

The AIS took the lead shortly before half-time when Sorras controlled a cross, evaded a defender and placed the ball into the goal in the 43rd minute.

In the second half, the AIS constantly attacked Marconi's goal scoring five times. Goals to Sorras (55th minute), Trajanovski (65th and 89th minute), Corica (68th minute) and

Radecki (88th minute) contributed to the final scoreline of 8-2.

AIS: Tella, Romanivk, Kollha, Jones, Block, Pangello, Maloney, Cranney, Corica, Trajanovski, Sorras, Radecki and Blizimovski.

MARCONI: Schwarzer, Carluccio, Surjan, Mammons, Charwood, Mendez, Messina, Delleste, Colaguri, Clune, Lopez and Villola.

BY DAVID COOPER

NYL NORTH

AIS still dominant

nute Petrdes beat his man on the side-edge of the box, he crossed inside only to see the ball stop dead in a mud puddle and in the mad scramble for the ball Zeiderman got his foot to it to give St George the lead.

Apia equalised eleven minutes later when Gulic struck a beautiful free kick outside the box, hitting the underside of the bar and bouncing in.

Both sides teams then went searching for winners but good defence and goalkeeping prevented any further scoring.

NYL Cup

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2 BLACKTOWN CITY 2

Both sides shared the points in their National Youth League Cup match on Saturday at St George Stadium.

The game was a titanic struggle right from the start with both teams employing all-out attack tactics.

In the 21st minute Sydney Olympic took the lead when Cardozo curled the drill into the box where it found Edwards fully stretched and he tucked the ball passed the advancing goalkeeper.

Blacktown equalised in the 36th minute when Bourke made a strong run down the left. He

fired a low pass across to Suman whose shot found the post only to see McKinna come in and tap the rebound in.

Olympic hit back straight after half-time when A Triantafylou made a darting midfield run and seeing the goalkeeper off his line he chipped him for a very good individual goal.

Blacktown again equalised when Rogers capitalised on an Olympic defensive mistake on the edge of the box and he had no trouble slotting the ball past the keeper.

Best for Olympic were Cardozo, Georgopoulos, and A. Triantafylou, while for Blacktown Langan, Begbie and Tyerman were the best.

OLYMPIC: S. Refenes, Pansen, Stott, Spyridakos, Georgopoulos, Sharpley, A. Triantafylou, Baltazis, Papaglou, Edwards, Cardozo.

BLACKTOWN: London, Tyerman, Langan, Begbie, Comerford, Abi-Arrange, Lees, Bourke, Suman, McKinna, Jee.

	P	W	D	L	A	Pts
AIS	13	8	4	1	32	11
APIA	13	6	5	2	14	11
Marci	14	5	4	5	19	20
St Geo	12	5	3	4	16	15
Melita	12	5	2	5	14	20
Black	13	4	3	6	16	19
Syd CI	12	5	1	6	18	17
Woll	12	3	2	7	12	20
Syd Cr	12	3	2	7	15	27

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AEROLINEAS ARGENTINAS

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A scene from the St George v Apia 0-0 draw at Lambert Park last Sunday — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

NSW SECOND DIVISION

Waverley still unbeaten

BY PAUL GOODWIN

WAVERLEY confirmed their unbeaten status with yet another single-goal-margin win when they defeated Orange Waratah 3-2 last Saturday night.

A goal down after 35 minutes when Bruce Cousins ran onto a through ball from Paul Waine and finished nicely, the visitors gained the upper hand within a 10-minute period early in the second half.

Orange played well enough to establish a good lead early, Stephen Hooper hitting the bar in the 8th minute, but when Barry Walker converted a 55th minute penalty, awarded for hand-ball, they began to lose their grip.

Steve Milloy brought the house down with a superb 25-metre drive that beat Glen Hooper all ends up, soon afterwards, as Waverley continued to provide great entertainment with their all-action style.

Walker intercepted a stray Orange backpass within minutes and the two-goal lead was

enough to see the eastern suburbs side home.

In one of the best games seen at the Waratah Sportsground for many seasons, Orange rallied late, with Hooper scoring and could have shared the spoils with any luck.

An understrength home side hopes to welcome back Ron Davison and a number of players recovering from injuries sustained in a pre-season trial against Lithgow Workers, when they tackle Petersham on Saturday night.

For Waverley the real test will come when they face ambitious Dulwich Hill at Arlington Oval on Sunday.

The Central Coast side was able to restrict the Madeira team from scoring at Plum Park and although scoreless themselves, were happy to collect the first point of their new Second Division campaign in such exalted company.

Auburn Yugal, now without Eddie Tomasic and Chris Card, both leading lights of last year, continued on their winning way with a solid 1-0 win at Lid-

combe Oval over Gladesville-Hornsby. 22-year-old Paul Pette- non one of Yugal's own junior prospects, has returned to his striker's position after a couple of seasons spent successfully in defence.

He was on the mark as the first half went into injury-time, deflecting a Despotovic corner past David Griffiths. Pette- non had missed chances earlier and as usual Beluzic had turned defenders inside out as he ended another superb run by hitting the post.

A second half penalty appeal was turned down when the same player was upended, but apart from some good play by new signing from Melita, Jeff Kelly, the Mitre Bears had little to offer in resistance apart from a willingness to run all day.

With Chris Cowley finding his feet again after a long lay-off and Ashley Williamson in good touch, the side should soon shake off its slow start and get next Sunday's Christie Park opener off on the right foot.

For Yugal, Zoran Milosavljevic has stepped into the boots of exiled goalie Rosario Pinto with relish and shows some promise as his displays so far give the impression that the side will lose nothing by Pinto's absence, although the youngster will need to sustain his good form on a consistent basis.

Mount Druitt and Petersham played an absorbing first half at Popondetta Park without any score, but spent the major part of the second period avoiding the puddles.

Sheeting rain made play almost impossible and the game degenerated into a series of long punts and scrambles for possession with shots on goal non-existent.

Peter Kerrigan and Don Campbell had strong games for the home side which faces Rosebery at the same ground this weekend.

Rosebery and Manly-Warringah, playing their game only a short distance away, encountered similar problems



but managed to produce good entertainment before the rains fell.

Tom Gavin supplied the cross for Mark Butler to give Manly a 35th minute lead, which was wiped out by Paul Harriott who took on three defenders, before hitting a sweetly timed shot from 25 metres which found the bottom corner in the 41st.

Harriott netted again in the 74th after an Ercan Osman shot was parried by the Manly goalie, but once more Manly rallied and from a melee following a 77th minute corner, defender Mario Nola was able to lift a sodden ball over the backs' heads and into the goal.

Results

Campbelltown Vikings 1 (Drinnan) Fairfield City 1 (Galloway). Central Coast 0 Dulwich Hill Madeira 0. Auburn-Yugal 1 (Pette- non) Gladesville-Hornsby 0. Southern Districts 2 (Taskin, Har- met) Granville-Chile 0 * abandoned at half- time*. Rosebery-Portu- gal 2 (Harnott 2) Manly- Warringah 2 (Butler, Nola). Mount Druitt Town 0 Petersham- Lusitanos 0. Orange- Waratah 2 (Cousins 2 Hooper) Waverley 3 (Walker 2 (Ipen) Milloy)

Hail cancels big match

THE hail storm and heavy rain that fell over Sydney on Sunday afternoon caused the referee to abandon to game between Southern Districts and Granville Chile after 45 minutes of very entertaining soccer.

Southern Districts was in front 2-0 at the end of the first half.

Granville Chile started better, taking control of the midfield and putting pressure on the local defence.

Twice the visitors went close to scoring, but once the local outfit settled midway through the first half, the trend of the match changed and started to flow in the opposite direction.

While Granville missed Enrique Monsalve in midfield, Southern Districts gained with the inclusion of new sign U. Taskin, who linked perfectly with Serbas and Gene.

The brilliant young Chilean goalkeeper Christian Gonzalez found himself under pressure throughout.

In the 33rd minute, the referee who made a gross mistake, Turkish striker Tasdemir received the ball from the back in a very clear offside position and his shot from inside the box was deflected by Gonzalez to the right.

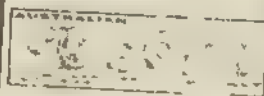
Taskin, who followed the play, took the rebound and with a short drive opened the score.

Five minutes later, from a visitors' defensive blunder, Harmat converted a second goal for Southern Districts.

Minutes after, just when the first half finished with the local fans celebrating their 2-0 lead, the storm hit and the referee decided to abandon the match — a decision which should have been taken before this very important clash started because of the absence of one of the linesmen.

— MARK ETCHART

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NSW SECOND DIVISION

ROUND 4

SATURDAY MARCH 24 (6pm & 8pm)

Orange Waratah v Petersham Waratah SG
Granville Chile v Auburn Yugal Garside Park

SUNDAY MARCH 25 (1pm & 3pm)

Gladesville-Hornsby v Campbelltown Chrstie Park
Fairfield City v Central Coast Knight Park
Dulwich Hill v Waverley Arlington Oval
Manly-Warringah v Southern Dists Cromer Park
Mt Druitt v Rosebery Popondetta Park

NSW DIV 2 LATEST

FORMER Socceroo Agent Muniz, coach of highly fancied 2nd Division side Dulwich Hill Madeira, was left fuming on the bench in the closing stages of the club's opening game with Auburn-Yugal recently. Habitually the wearer of the number 6 shirt — irrespective of whether he is used from the start or simply as a substitute — Muniz prepared to come on in the latter stages as his side attempted to clinch victory. Auburn having drawn level moments earlier. Unfortunately, due to an oversight, the Brazilian who has turned many a game in the past was unable to join his colleagues; his name had been left off the team sheet, which is unlikely to happen again following his comments to club officials in the aftermath of this incident.

Nivan Gomez, another Brazilian coach who did such a good job with Granville-Chile before resigning in mid-season due to pressure from some sections of supporters, is still keen to coach at the highest level possible. The 39 year old Gomez, a computer programmer by profession lives in the Eastern suburbs but is prepared to travel to take up a senior position. He lists his referees as David Lee, State Director of Coaching, and Juan Rojo, Director of Sport with the Granville club. A contemporary of many fine Brazilian players including Pele, the unassuming Gomez made a good impression at his first stab at Australian soccer and could be a valuable acquisition for any ambitious club. He can be contacted on tel 30 6431 or by writing to him at 11/27 Glen Street Bondi NSW 2026.

North Shore United is still endeavouring to secure

Chatswood Oval for at least some of its scheduled home games this season. It is the only ground, other than North Sydney Oval, suitable to stage State League football in the area. Others fall well short of the Federation's criteria. Willoughby Council cited over-use of the ground as reason for the decline of the club's application. Since the complex is used in winter exclusively by rugby union and for games by all sections of the Gordon Club, as well as for all training, perhaps some solution can be found by allowing the pitch to be used only for official fixtures. After all, the ground is a facility for the North Shore Community and the local soccer side is playing at the highest level in the State. A re-arrangement of training operations could see a more equitable situation: few soccer clubs would consider playing and training on the same ground and rugby should follow suit.

Ian Wotherspoon, a talented 29 year old midfielder originally from Ballintown in Scotland and who first linked up with Penrith City in their National League days, has joined Waverley. With Campbelltown Vikings last season, Wotherspoon is accompanied by Peter Treacey, who spent last year with the Vikings, but was with Maroubra-Queens Park before that. The Anglo-Scottish Enclave in the Eastern Suburbs should be a strong force with these two operating in the team's engine room this term.

Fairfield City vice-president Ernesto Albistur missed the club's debut against Southern Districts due to most unfortunate circumstances. Ernesto, who doubles as the Press Officer for the Yennora based side, was within reach of the Knight Park training ground when a stolen car, driven by two teenagers, collided with his Toyota Land Cruiser, causing Albistur's legs to be crushed by the force of his vehicle's engine weight in the impact. Now recovering in Fairfield District Hospital from two badly broken legs, the City official also suffered serious damage to both knees. We wish him a speedy recovery. Incidentally, the boys responsible escaped.

BY PAUL GOOLWY

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Thomson sets sights on greater competence

BY GRAHAM COOKE

EVERY coach of a junior soccer team in Australia will one day have a certificate of competence if the new national coaching director, Eddie Thomson, has his way.

"A lot of people are quite capable of doing the courses but are too lazy."

It will be different if they know they cannot coach a junior team without a licence — and if they learn just 15 per cent more while getting one, then junior soccer will improve by 15 per cent, he said.

There is always the possibility they might like the experience and go for a Level Two certificate then we're looking at a 30 per cent improvement.

"We have to be realistic and accept it has to be phased in over two or three years — there isn't the staff to process 5,000 level-one candidates for a start but it is something which is fundamental to the game in this country."

"There is only one way the standard of soccer will be raised — that's by improving the standard of our coaches."

In the longer term he wants more experienced QNSL players going into coaching.

"But I don't want to see them jumping straight in without preparation."

"Look at the record to date, there are people who have been with five different clubs in the league — that could mean they are either bad coaches or they maybe are making a lot of bad decisions."

He wanted the AIS to take over as soccer's centre of excellence in Australia with a fortnight every year set aside for courses in coaching, refereeing and administration.

"It would be a tremendous public relations exercise, plus we can learn from each other."

Thomson, a former Scottish Premier Division player with Hearts and Aberdeen and one of the most experienced club coaches in Australia, has just recently taken over the director's job from the long-serving Eric Worthington.

He said his priorities are to lay the foundations for a system which would serve the country well into the future.

"There was nothing here when he came and he made something of which we can all be proud," Thomson said.

While he gained his initial qualifications in Scotland more than 20 years ago, Thomson has made his name in Australia as a highly successful club coach with Sydney City and Sydney Olympic.

He believes the background will be a great advantage.

It helps you in mental toughness — you have to learn how to handle pressure.

Perhaps more than anything else it makes you appreciate how much your job is on the line if you do not get results.

"There are no friends out there — you can build tremendous plans for four years but if you have four defeats you could be out of a job."

Thomson plans to spend a lot of time out on the field.

"I'm not a paper coach, I like to get involved, so I'll be giving a lot more practical demonstrations than you have seen in the past."

"I am available to anyone from the national coach downwards. People seem to forget it is part of my job."

I have already helped out at Sydney Croatia and Sydney Olympic. I've been to a couple of NSW State League clubs. I've worked with my mate's amateur club.

"It's just a matter of asking me."

Strangely enough, I think I'm the best.

But if you think you're the best you have to put pressure on yourself to prove it. I enjoy every minute of it."

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY welcomes Letters to the Editor.

They should be signed, with name, address and telephone number stated.

Mail letters to ASW, PO Box 406, Broadway 2007.

They may cover any relevant topic in the entire world of soccer.

Monaro lands sponsors

THE Monaro Junior Soccer Club is proud to announce that Coca-Cola Bottlers of Queanbeyan are to sponsor the planned pre-season knockout.

The knockout, which has the blessing of the ACT Junior League, is to be run at Wright Park over the weekend of 31 March/April 1, followed by a day of finals on April 7 at the same venue.

The Monaro Juniors are on the verge of signing two sponsorship deals with Coca-Cola Bottlers of Queanbeyan both of which will remain in place for a number of years.

President Harry Panjer stated that in an effort to promote junior soccer and guarantee the continuation of the pre-season competition, Coca-Cola Bottlers and the Monaro Juniors were entering into an agreement which will ensure continuation of the pre-season knockout for at least five years.

The pre-season competition will now be known as the Coca-Cola Bottlers Pre-Season Knockout.

Perpetual cups will be awarded to winners in each age group, whilst mementoes will be awarded to all finalists.

Teams are expected to enter from all ACT junior clubs for the 1990 competition, and it is hoped to extend the competition to other country centres in following years.

The club has found itself in an excellent position coming into the 1990 season with sponsors being found for all junior teams.

Major sponsors include — all mini teams sponsored by McDonalds Queanbeyan, U11 by Moore & Smith Pty Ltd, U12 by Brian Mitchell's AMCAL Chemist Queanbeyan, U13 by Universal Garages & Carpets Queanbeyan, U14 by Natural Gas Canberra, U15 by Colin Enright Photography Canberra and the goalkeepers by Specialty Sewing of Queanbeyan.

Assistance has also been forthcoming from Crown Press Canberra, and the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation "QUIT" campaign.

Training has started for all age groups and registrations are running at record levels.



For the last three years the Ku-ring-gai and District Soccer Association have taken advantage of the excellent facilities of the NSW Sports Academy situated on the shores of Narrabeen Lakes, Sydney. The camp is held on the last weekend of the Christmas school holidays from Friday to Sunday afternoon. This time the 11s, 12s and 13 squads attended to renew old friendships and to get to know the new boys in each squad, as this was the first time they had been together since last year's trials. The coaches also had the opportunity to see their players in action to finalise their teams while using the excellent playing fields, gymnasium, swimming pool and video equipment.

— PHIL WOODS

Mosman Festival

MOSMAN Festival took advantage of the coaching skills of Dusan "Darcy" Purac for their Family Fun Day on March 11.

Fis coaching was given to children at Balmora Oval and the soccer stars of the future jumped at the chance for some expert tuition.

The kids were amused at some of Darcy's tricks and ball skills and were then coached into doing the same.

You could see a confidence and ball

control of the players improve in just two hours.

It was clear to see why Dusan has been dubbed the "Coach of the Nineties" by some of the dads impressed with the improvement in their sons.

Dusan is receiving many offers from clubs and soccer camps to perform coaching at training nights and at weekends and can be contacted via Sportsforce on 440 816.



UMBRO YOUTH LEAGUE

ROUND 3 SUNDAY MARCH 18 DIVISION 1

	U13	U14	U15	U17
St George	v	Macarthur	*	*
Syd Olympic	v	Illawarra	4-1	1-0
APIA	v	Nepean	1-3	3-2
Syd Croatia	v	Banksstown	2-0	2-0
Melita	v	Sutherland	1-2	2-0
Blacktown City	v	Marconi	2-0	0-3
Can/M/Ville	v	Stn Districts	0-4	0-1

★★ To be played 29/3/90 Peakhurst

SUNDAY MARCH 18 DIVISION 2

Ku-ring-gai	v	Granville	3-1	2-1
Canterbury	v	Stn & Eastern	0-1	0-3
Warringah	v	Polona	0-5	3-0
Gladesville	v	Central Coast	5-0	2-1
Many Warringah	v	Rockdale	1-0	2-2
Avata	v	Blacktown	1-4	4-2
Fairfield City	v	Stn Branch	1-4	1-3



WESTERN SYDNEY SWANS UNDER 16 INDOOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Western Sydney Swans under 16 indoor soccer team are having a highly successful 1989-1990 summer season. The team has already won the minor premiership in the Sunday Youth League competition held at Fairfield Leisure Centre. Recently it won the national club championship in Canberra, beating Europe (ACT) 4-1 in a penalty shoot-out, after the match ended 3-3.

The Swans are also the current NSW club champions. The premier team proudly represents the Premier Providers company, who actively support the entire youth section of the Swans club.

BOTTOM: Stan Fisk (coach), Ross Loppino, Paul Richardson, Ray Vedat, Martin Fisk, Ron Richardson (manager). FRONT: Arnold Lobo, Garry McGee, Ashley Cross.

ARGENTINA successfully staged the eleventh World Cup, an event viewed with fear and scepticism in European quarters, though the Argentine Football Association had been promised the games as early as 1966.

The FIFA leadership, plagued by its guilt over rejecting Argentina's bid for so long, remained undaunted in its support of successive Argentine governments, as, one-by-one, each regime guaranteed a trouble-free competition.

The unique position of Argentina as the birthplace of soccer in South America and its extraordinary record in South American competition, moreover, could not be overlooked.

The Argentines themselves, meanwhile, were nursing deeply felt regional jealousies after the five World Cup triumphs of neighbouring Brazil and Uruguay. All of these factors helped to create an explosive yet dour atmosphere throughout the entire proceedings.

Argentina, by virtue of its home support, joined Brazil, Holland and West Germany in the list of favorites but Italy could not be discounted, and the fluid and engaging French were highly regarded and immensely popular.

In the first round, attention was focused on Group 1, the toughest first round clustering since Group 4 in 1958.

Under manager Cesar Luis Menotti, Argentina defied its detractors, and settled into a less physical style than opponents had experienced for many years.

Opting instead for breakneck speed and an aggressive attack, Argentina seemed the team to beat after its exciting defeat of France, and, in spite of a loss to Italy, the home team raced inexorably into the semi-finals.

The Italians also advanced and won many new friends by playing a more attacking and open style than they had played since the 1940s.

In Group 2, West Germany was barely recognisable without Franz Beckenbauer, and Poland escaped as the leader of a weak group after three lack-

luster games.

Tunisia became the surprise of the competition by rolling over hapless Mexico and holding the world champion West Germans to a scoreless draw.

This was surely the finest team ever to have come out of Africa, and it finished deservedly with the best record in the bottom eight.

In Group 3, Austria gained some surprising results, but Brazil looked depressed by its internal squabbling, the loss of Rivelino, and uncomfortable conditions in a hostile country.

In Group 4, Peru was another first round sensation, eliminating not only the pathetic Scots but outplaying the up-and-down Dutch as well.

The Netherlands, whose team without Johan Cruyff, Geels, and van Hanegem still looked capable of defeating any opposition in the tournament, was enigmatic at best.

Scotland was rocked by a major international scandal when left winger Willie Johnston was permanently banned from international competition for taking an illegal medicine.

After weak performances against Peru and Iran, Scotland went home in disgrace, though it had demonstrated its real strength by defeating the Dutch after it was too late.

The semi-finals saw the decline and collapse of first round upstarts Austria and Peru, further mediocre showings by West Germany and Brazil, and Italy's return to defensive tactics and a familiar loss of finishing power.

Above all, however, Argentina established an inviolability in the semi-finals that few thought possible — other than the Argentines themselves.

Attacking left mid-fielder Mario Kempes emerged as the most exciting player of the competition, and the team as a whole showed strength on all parts of the field.

Its controversial 6-0 thrashing of Peru, which put undefeated Brazil out of the final on goal difference, was a model of precision and, in a large sense, the climax of Argentina's seething frustration after years of poor treatment in the world press.

In the other semi-final group, the Dutch

HISTORY OF THE WORLD CUP (ARGENTINA 1978)



Argentine hero Mario Kempes (second from left) and his team-mates celebrate a goal in the 1978 World Cup final against Holland, while the Dutch Number 8 appeals for an offside.

rediscovered their lost genius in a 5-1 defeat of Austria, and outclassed the West Germans in a replay of the 1974 final, though the stalwart German defence held them to a draw.

A convincing win over Italy put Holland in the World Cup final against a home country for the second time in a row.

Fifty years after it had lost the replay of the Olympic final to arch-rival Uruguay — in distant Amsterdam — Argentina won its first World Cup in a blaze of glory.

The Estadio Monumental (the site of a tragic riot exactly 10 years earlier in which 74 spectators lost their lives) provided the setting for a blinding maelstrom of confetti and the unleashing of a national's collective pride.

The purpose of this ritualistic gathering was made abundantly clear from the beginning: to set right an aging injustice.

The potential violence of the exercise surfaced even before the opening kick-off, and, indeed, the game evolved into one of the

stormiest World Cup finals on record.

Holland fielded what appeared to be a 3-4-3 formation, though elements of the systemless "total football" were also evident.

The premier Dutch striker, Robby Rensenbrink, missed several sure goals in the first and second halves — simply by shooting off-target — and these ultimately became Holland's only real opportunities to win the match.

Argentina won the

GANSLER ATTACK

CERTAIN sections of the American media have launched a bitter attack on US national coach Bob Gansler following dismal performances in recent World Cup warm-up matches.

The Hungarian-born Gansler is accused of favouring Anglo-Saxon college players to the detriment of far more skilful players of Latin American descent.

"La Opinion", the biggest Spanish-language daily in the US, based in Los Angeles, claims the US national team has become a closed club reserved for white Anglos.

"The United States could field a much stronger national side, based on Latinos who are being ignored by a racist coach," the newspaper claimed in a front page editorial.

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GROUP 1	
ITALY v FRANCE	2-1
ARGENTINA v HUNGARY	2-1
ITALY v HUNGARY	3-1
ARGENTINA v FRANCE	2-1
FRANCE v HUNGARY	3-1
ITALY v ARGENTINA	1-0

POINTS	
ITALY	3 3 0 0 6 2 6
ARGENTINA	3 2 0 1 4 3 4
FRANCE	3 1 0 2 5 5 2
HUNGARY	3 0 0 3 3 8 0

GROUP 2	
WEST GERMANY v POLAND	0-0
TUNISIA v MEXICO	3-1
POLAND v TUNISIA	1-0
WEST GERMANY v MEXICO	5-0
POLAND v MEXICO	3-1
WEST GERMANY v TUNISIA	0-0

POINTS	
POLAND	3 2 1 0 4 1 5
WEST GERMANY	3 1 2 0 6 0 4
TUNISIA	3 1 1 1 3 2 3
MEXICO	3 0 0 3 3 2 12 0

GROUP 3	
AUSTRIA v SPAIN	2-1
BRAZIL v SWEDEN	1-1
AUSTRIA v SWEDEN	1-0
BRAZIL v SPAIN	0-0
SPAIN v SWEDEN	1-0
BRAZIL v AUSTRIA	1-0

POINTS	
AUSTRIA	3 2 0 1 3 2 4
BRAZIL	3 1 2 0 2 1 4
SPAIN	3 1 1 1 2 2 3
SWEDEN	3 0 1 2 1 3 1

GROUP 4	
PERU v SCOTLAND	3-1
HOLLAND v IRAN	3-0
SCOTLAND v IRAN	1-1

POINTS	
HOLLAND v PERU	0-0
PERU v IRAN	4-1
SCOTLAND v HOLLAND	3-2

2ND ROUND GROUP A	
WEST GERMANY v ITALY	0-0
HOLLAND v AUSTRIA	5-1
ITALY v AUSTRIA	1-0
HOLLAND v WEST GERMANY	2-2
AUSTRIA v ITALY	2-1
AUSTRIA v WEST GERMANY	3-2

POINTS	
HOLLAND	3 2 1 0 9 4 5
ITALY	3 1 1 1 2 2 3
WEST GERMANY	3 0 2 1 4 5 2
AUSTRIA	3 1 0 2 4 8 2

GROUP B	
BRAZIL v PERU	3-0
ARGENTINA v POLAND	2-0
POLAND v PERU	1-0
ARGENTINA v BRAZIL	0-0
BRAZIL v POLAND	3-1
ARGENTINA v PERU	6-0

POINTS	
ARGENTINA	3 2 1 0 8 0 5
BRAZIL	3 2 1 0 6 1 5
POLAND	3 1 0 2 2 5 2
PERU	3 0 0 3 0 10 0

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF	
BRAZIL v ITALY	2-1

FINAL	
ARGENTINA v HOLLAND	3-1 (1-1 AET)

ARGENTINA: Fillol, Passarella, Otgon, L. Galvan, Tarantini, Ardiles (Larrosa), Gallardo, Ortiz (Houseman), Bertoni, Luque, Kempes.
HOLLAND: Jongbloed, Krol, Poortvliet, Brands, Jansen (Sjoberger), Haan, Neeskens, W. van der Kerkhof, Rep (Nanninga), R. van der Kerkhof, Resendrik.
SCOTLAND: Kempes (2), Bertoni for Argentina, Nanninga for Holland.
REFEREE: Gonnella (Italy).
LEADER SCORER: Mario Kempes (Argentina) 6.

FRENCHMAN FAVOURED

MICHEL Vautrot of France is the early favourite for the prestigious refereeing task of controlling the World Cup final.

A strong hint of FIFA's thinking was revealed by publication of the referees' list for the finals in June and July.

Not only are there two referees from the host nation — not unusual — but there are also two men from non-qualified France, Vautrot and Joel Quiniou.

The World Cup list: Europe: Vautrot, Quiniou (Fra), Kinschen (EG), Listkiewicz (Pol), Rothlisberger (Swz), Schmidhuber (WG), Courtney (Eng), Kohl (Austria), Van

Langenhove (Bel), Smith (Scot), Soriano Aladen (Spi), Lanese, Agnolin (It), Fredriksson (Swe), Spirin (USSR), Petrovic (Yug), Snoddy (Nth Ire), Mikkelsen (Den), Silva Valente (Port).

South America: Wright (Brz), Loustau (Arg), Perez Hoyos (Uru), Cardellino (Uru), Maciel (Par), Hernan Silva (Chi), Jacome (Ec).

Africa: Naji Joutini (Tun), Mohammed Hamsal (Alg), Diramba (Gabon).

Asia: Al Sharif (Syr), Mandi (Bahrain), Taka-da (Jpn).

North/Central America: Codesal (Mex), Ulloa Morera (Costa R), Mauro (US).

Oceania: Richard Lorenc (Aust).

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Scots' finals form is not encouraging

BY TIMOTHY COLLINGS*

SCOTLAND, having overcome their nerves to qualify for a fifth successive World Cup finals appearance, will be anxious to improve on their past form when they travel to Italy in June.

For in each of the finals series in 1974, 1978, 1982 and 1986, the Scots have failed to live up to the hopes of their "Tartan army" of fans and were eliminated in the first round.

Indeed, they have never gone beyond the opening round in six appearances in the finals since they first qualified in 1954.

This time, after qualifying second behind Yugoslavia in a group which also contained France, Norway and Cyprus, Scotland and their supporters will at least travel with their hopes tempered by the knowledge that they will be in one of the toughest opening sections.

In group C in Turin and Genoa, Scotland will be facing three-time winners Brazil, Sweden and Costa Rica.

It will be the third time in five series of World Cup finals they have met the Brazilians in the opening round.

"It is a glamorous group. It always is when you are picked with the Brazilians," said team manager Andy Roxburgh.

"But it is not an easy one and we shall have our work cut out to qualify from it."

Roxburgh, whose playing career was spent with some of Scotland's less distinguished clubs in the lower divisions, followed Alex Ferguson in charge after the 1986 finals in Mexico.

CHAMPS OF AFRICA

ALGERIA have won the African Nations' Cup, defeating Nigeria 1-0 in the final in Algiers last Friday.

French-based Cherif Oudjani, who plays for Sochaux, scored the winning goal, sending the 80,000 home fans wild with delight.

It was Algeria's first African title.

Zambia beat Senegal 1-0 for third place.



ANDY ROXBURGH

He recognised his task was to try and utilise the Scots' natural skill, energy and enthusiasm in a tactical framework which would prove sound in international soccer and provide some form of consistency.

By the end of the qualifying programme last year, however, Scotland had won nine, drawn 11 and lost seven of 27 matches under his control.

And consistency looked to be as elusive as ever, whoever was selected.

This was most vividly reflected in their qualifying matches. After wins over Norway, Cyprus (twice) and France and a draw at home to Yugoslavia, it looked a formality that they would qualify with three matches remaining.

Defeats in Yugoslavia and France, however, left everything hanging on their final home tie against Norway, which ended in a cliff-hanging 1-1 draw, as Scotland tumbled into the finals.

Injuries to key players have not assisted Roxburgh whose squad, unlike most previous Scotland squads, is conspicuously lacking in stars.

Whereas in the past, the Scots could always draw upon the inspiration of such men as Denis Law, Willie Johnston, Graeme Souness or Kenny Dalglish, they now rely upon their collective football and team spirit.

Goalkeeper Jim Leighton, who has endured a difficult season in England with Manchester United fighting

relegation, is one of a core of experienced men who played in Mexico.

He, Richard Gough of Glasgow Rangers, who has been injured virtually all season, Willie Miller of Aberdeen and Roy Aitken of Newcastle will be the foundations of Scotland's defence, but none of them have been playing at the top of their form.

Another defender, Gary Gillespie, of whom much was hoped, is only just back from injury and the team as a whole has been forced to rely greatly on the goalscoring talents of top striker Mo Johnston.

Johnston scored six goals in the qualifiers and, after 30 international appearances, had hit 12 goals to establish himself as Scotland's top modern marksman.

Johnston is likely to be partnered in attack by Rangers team-mate Ally McCoist, with midfield support from the mercurial Paul McStay, Jim Bell and the versatile Steve Nicol.

Nicol, one of the most impressive and consistent players in Liverpool's championship-chasing team, will be at his peak in Italy and could prove, at 28, to be the Scots' outstanding all-round player.

Roxburgh has worked hard and in great detail to ensure the Scots are ideally prepared for the tournament.

Immediately after the draw last December he flew to Genoa to finalise hotel and training arrangements and last month he and the squad flew to their Italian base for a three-day familiarisation visit.

He revealed how important he felt the preparations were to Scotland's campaign when he issued a stern warning to all his players about treating them and the warm-up matches lightly.

"Turn up for the warm-up games or forget about Italy," he said.

"No-one is indispensable and if they do not want to come then we will look elsewhere."

Roxburgh has arranged four warm-up fixtures in Glasgow before the squad departs for Italy. Scotland meet Argentina on March 28, East Germany on April 25, Egypt on May 16 and Poland on May 19.

* from REUTERS



Crystal Palace keeper Nigel Martyn leaps in vain as Nigel Worthington scores in the recent 1-1 draw with Sheffield Wednesday in England.

I'm no World Cup risk!

WRITES BRYAN ROBSON*

I AM sick and tired of people constantly comparing my current injury situation to the dislocated shoulder which wrecked my World Cup campaign in Mexico four years ago.

And anyone who even suggests that England will be running a risk if they take me to this year's World Cup finals in talking rubbish.

I had to take a gamble in 1986.

There wasn't time to have an operation on my shoulder, so I had the choice of going to Mexico and hoping to build the injury up in time to get through the finals or miss out on the World Cup altogether.

And even though things didn't work in my favour, I still believe I made the right decision and don't have any regrets about going to Mexico.

But now my situation is totally different. I've already had the operation to repair a couple of tears at the bottom of my abdominal muscles and now have plenty of time to recover.

I'm loath to put a date on my return to action, but with a bit of luck I'll be back in four to six weeks, fully fit and playing.

If the worst comes to the worst and I'm not ready to play in England's opening match against the Irish on June 11 then I'll have to consider my position very carefully.

But that game is almost three months away and to be honest I'm not even giving the World Cup a second thought at the moment.

I'm much more concerned about getting the club to a respectable First Division position.



Yet I'm not going to make the mistake of rushing back before I'm fully recovered and risking another breakdown.

So I have to say that on that score Alex Ferguson has been fantastic. There's a lot of pressure on the boss at the moment, yet he's refused to allow any of it to get through to me by

asking me to name my comeback date.

And even though it's frustrating to know I wasted six weeks before having that operation in a London hospital, at least I've got the hernia problem sorted out now and know it's just a matter of time before I'll be ready to return to duty.

At the moment I can only manage a slow walk, but I hope to start

jogging again in the next couple of weeks and then build my strength up from there.

I picked up the injury in training prior to our Christmas match against Liverpool and made it a lot worse by forcing myself through the game.

At first we thought it was just a bad groin strain, but United physio Jim McGregor and I began to suspect it was something more serious when the injury had failed to respond to treatment after three weeks.

We then tried an injection, which took another five days to take effect, but as soon as I tried to kick a ball again I just broke down.

So it was off to hospital for what I reckon was about the SEVENTH operation of my career.

And while I was laying in my bed I got the best possible get-well tonic from my United team-mates... news of that vital 2-1 win at Millwall. A few more results like that will take us well clear of the relegation scrap.

Sadly, I won't be available for England's glamour game against the Brazilians at Wembley on March 28.

But I'll be looking to get in as many matches as possible between now and the end of the season.

Returning to a winning United and England team certainly won't do me any harm.

— *courtesy SHOOT



Lyon's Zaire international Kabongo, one of the most lethal goalscorers in the French First Division, in action against St Etienne in a local derby.

Degryse sets high goals

BY MARK RYAN

BELGIAN striker Marc Degryse will have a dual aim when he makes his entrance on the World Cup stage in the dramatic setting of Verona.

The Anderlecht hit-man obviously hopes his country can pull off yet another surprise in a major international competition.

But there is also a personal motive for Degryse, who plans to use the finals to secure for himself a glamour move to one of the giants of European club football.



MARC DEGRYSE

"We must be realistic. Belgium will be happy if we manage to get past the first series of matches," says the 24-year-old.

"OK, there are no obvious favourites in our group but it still includes South Korea, Uruguay and Spain.

"So much depends on the first match against South Korea. If we don't win that one, we'll feel the pressure against

the others.

"At least we know something about South Korea now. I saw their recent match against North Korea and they are certainly not a team to be underestimated. They have the experience of Mexico in 1986 under their belts and must be considered a good team.

"As for Belgium, we definitely prefer to remain underdogs. We will try to grow together during the competition, negotiate the first stage and then see what happens."

Belgium have shocked the world before with stunning charges to the European Championship final against West Germany in 1980 and then the last World Cup semi-final, where they lost to eventual winners Argentina.

This year Belgium's destiny — and Degryse's — will depend on his prolific partnership with the other Marc, Van der Linden.

And if the diminutive Degryse is a hit in front of TV millions he could secure his financial future with a mega-move to Italy.

"I'd be interested in joining any big club in Europe as long as the team is strong and the money is right," he says.

MARADONA TO VISIT INDONESIA

DIEGO Maradona and Argentina's national team will play two exhibition matches in Indonesia before the World Cup finals, a sports official in Jakarta says.



DIEGO MARADONA

The tour, a final warm-up for the Argentine team before the final rounds of the World Cup in Rome, is expected to take place in the beginning of the second week of May.

In addition to playing Indonesia's national team, the world champion Argentines will take on one of Indonesia's best soccer clubs.

It seems a pity that since Argentina will be so close to our shores, they could not have been contracted for at least one game against the Socceroos.

Pride motivates Costa Ricans

COSTA Rica will be playing for their pride and without great ambitions when they make their first appearance in the World Cup finals in Italy in June.

They do not believe they can win and they did not really expect to qualify — but they are determined to score at least one goal in their opening round group matches against Brazil, Scotland and Sweden.

"The most important thing — for the entire country — is that we managed to get to the finals for the first time," said 31-year-old defender and team captain Roger Flores.

"We know our chances are pretty remote, but we're going to do our absolute best to honour the name of Costa Rica."

South American in style, if not in their playing standards, the Costa Ricans are hoping to leave Europe with a good name.

Costa Rica's successful qualification for the finals, as winners of the CONCACAF qualifying section, brought thousands of cheering Ticos (as Costa Ricans call themselves) into the streets amid blaring car horns and clogging traffic last year.

The tiny democratic Central American country, untouched by the brutal conflicts afflicting its neighbours, qualified after beating the United States, Trinidad and Tobago, El Salvador and Guatemala.



"We are aware that we are a very underdeveloped nation when it comes to football," admitted striker Evaristo Coronado, 29, who scored twice in qualifying games. "But we are capable of a draw and, who knows, maybe we could counter-attack and score a goal," he said grinning.

Full-time training will start in early April, when the domestic club season ends.

The squad was taken on a preparatory trip to Italy last October when apart from losing games to First and Second Division clubs, they learned about the food, weather and pitches.

The team's most famous supporter, Costa Rican President and Nobel Peace Prize winner Oscar Arias, has already booked his ticket to Italy, but refused to comment on his team's chances.

"What's really important is the sporting spirit... of being prepared to win one day, and lose the next," Arias said.

"The same spirit that pervades national politics."

Flores, forward Hernan Medford and midfielder Enrique Diaz are rated as the squad's finest players with others such as striker Juan Cayasso.

Gullit back soon?

RUUD Gullit will resume training next week and vowed to fight to be ready for the World Cup finals.

The AC Milan striker has been plagued by a serious knee injury which has kept him on the sidelines since last April.

He underwent a third operation on the right knee last December 1.

Gullit went to see his Belgian specialist Professor Marc Martens at his clinic in Pellenberg two weeks ago and got the green light.

He will see Martens again early next month and if the physiotherapy continues to progress will step up his training schedule with his Dutch colleagues at Milan, Frank Rijkaard and Marco van Basten.

"I would then have a month before the start



RUUD GULLIT

of the World Cup," said Gullit.

"I do not yet dare hope that I will be able to take part."

But he added that he still had a hope to be in the Dutch squad.

TURKEY SNARES PIONTEK

DANISH coach Sepp Piontek has signed a four-year contract to train the Turkish national soccer team.

Piontek, a West German, pledged to raise the level of Turkish football, but said the road would not be easy.

"In football there are no miracles," he said.

Turkish officials said Piontek would be paid an annual salary of \$240,000 as technical director of all the national soccer teams.



Sepp Piontek

Piontek, under contract to Denmark until June, said his post with Turkey would officially run from July 1, but the Turkish Football Federation was in touch with the Danish authorities to try for an earlier release.

Piontek has been in charge of the Danish squad for 17 years.

Denmark and Turkey both failed to qualify for this year's World Cup finals in Italy.

"I believe with a long-term training programme we shall be able to raise the level of Turkish football on a national scale," Piontek said.

Not easy

"It is not easy but I hope we shall succeed. Football needs discipline and hard work."

Turkey failed to qualify for the World Cup finals after coming third in its group behind the Soviet Union and Austria.

"Piontek... is a world name in soccer," said Turkish Football Federation chief Senes Erzik.

Erzik said Piontek would work closely with Jupp Derwall, another West German coach who is now chief adviser to the federation after training Istanbul team Galatasaray for years.

COMBINED GERMANY

BERTI Vogts, the West German national team manager-designate, said he saw little chance that the two German states could form a joint team before 1992.

"If the qualifications for the European Championships start with separate West German and East German teams, there will be no single German team until 1992," Vogts told the Munich-based magazine QUICK.

The two German teams have been drawn into the same qualifying group for the 1992 European Championships.

Vogts will take over from Franz Beckenbauer as national team manager after this summer's World Cup in Italy.

With German unification gathering pace, officials from both countries have speculated that a single German sports team could come as early as the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona.

Gillette's fabulous World Cup Competition

APRIL 13th is D-Day for all ASW readers who have the desire to be in Rome for the World Cup as special guests of the Gillette Company.

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details at foot of this page).

Will Argentina be able to retain the World Cup they won in 1986?

Could the incredible Maradona be forced to relinquish the iron-grip he welded onto this

prestigious trophy four years ago in Mexico?

Can the Italians, who lost the Cup to Argentina, show enough character to reclaim it in front of their delirious football fans?

Is the highly attractive European champion, Holland, who most probably will be without their genius Ruud Guillit, strong enough to steal the Cup after twice (1974 and 1978) being "bridesmaids"?

Or will England stun the world, especially Fleet Street, and see Bryan Robson lift the Cup on Sunday, July 8th and take it back to London after an absence of 24 years?

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BY JOHN ECONOMOS

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Thurs 5th July.

Option 1, a full-day tour of Florence with lunch at leisure and dinner at Orvieto. Option 2 is to take a shuttle bus to the centre of Rome. Dinner at the Quattro Fiumi and Trescattini Restaurants in Piazza Navona.

Fri 6th July.

Free Day to take shuttle bus to centre of Rome. Gala dinner at Castello Di Bracciano.

Sat 7th July.

Option 1 is a tour of Sistine Chapel and Catacombs. Option 2 involves taking a shuttle bus to centre of Rome. Roman banquet at The Sheraton in the evening.

Sun 8th July.

Free morning Mass at St Peter's. Late lunch barbeque at The Sheraton. Go and watch the World Cup Final at the magnificent Olympic Stadium Rome.

Mon 9th July.

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Option 2. Day in Rome

WEDNESDAY, 4TH JULY

Morning sightseeing tour of Rome

Late afternoon departure to Tivoli and Villa Adriana, followed by dinner

THURSDAY, 5TH JULY

Option 1. Full day tour to Florence with lunch at leisure and dinner at Orvieto

Option 2. Shuttle buses to centre of Rome

Dinner at Quattro Fiumi and Trescattini restaurants in Piazza Navona

FRIDAY, 6TH JULY

Free day

Shuttle buses to centre of Rome

Gala dinner at Castello Di Bracciano

SATURDAY, 7TH JULY

Option 1. Tour of Sistine Chapel and Catacombs

Option 2. Shuttle Buses to centre of Rome

Roman banquet at The Sheraton

SUNDAY, 8TH JULY

Free morning

Mass at St. Peter's

Late lunch barbeque at The Sheraton

The final - Olympic Stadium, Rome

MONDAY, 9TH JULY

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PLUS 100 Other prizes of Size 5 Kookaburra Cosmos Deluxe Soccer Balls. See over for details. **COMPETITION CLOSING 13TH APRIL 1990**

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3. All entrants must be residents of Australia and a member or supporter of a soccer club/association in Australia. To be eligible, each entrant must nominate the name and address of their soccer club/association. Employees and their immediate families of Gillette (Aust) Pty Limited, their associated companies, advertising and sales promotions agencies are not eligible to enter or to receive any prizes.
4. Prize draw will take place in Sydney on Monday 16th April, 1990. The entrant named in the first valid entry drawn will win a 10 day holiday for 2 to Italy. Prize consists of economy airfares for 2 from the state capital nearest the winner to Italy and return, meals, 7 nights luxury accommodation, airport transfers in Italy, organised sight-seeing events, double tickets to the soccer semi-final in Naples and the final in Rome, and tips in Italy. Personal expenses such as passports, visas, insurance, health requirements, spending money and all other ancillary costs are the responsibility of the winner. Travel prize valued at approximately \$14,332. Entrants named in the next 100 valid entries drawn will each win a Size 5 Kookaburra Cosmos Deluxe Soccer Ball. RRP \$29.95 each.
5. The winning entrant's soccer club will receive a cheque for \$3,000. In the event that the club is located in Queensland, the prize will be awarded as gold bullion to the nearest value in the absolute discretion of the promoter.
6. Travel prize must be taken between July 1st, 1990 and July 10th, 1990.
7. All winners will be notified by mail and the first prize winner's name will be published in the Public Notices column of The Australian on Friday 27th April, 1990.
8. Prizes are not transferable or exchangeable and cannot be taken as cash.
9. The judges decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. No responsibility for lost or misdirected mail will be accepted by the promoter, Gillette (Aust) Pty Limited, of 504-520 Princes Highway, Noble Park, Victoria, 3174.
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Name of Soccer Club/Association _____

Address of Soccer Club/Association _____

Postcode _____

COMPETITION CLOSING 13TH APRIL 1990

GWS/ASW